





Gc  
974.402  
H69p  
1131899

M. L.

# GENEALOGY COLLECTION

Form 850W-5M

The Genealogical Society  
Library



No. 15412

Date 1892

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01095 5497

Worcester Co.)

Mass











# HISTORY OF HOLDEN

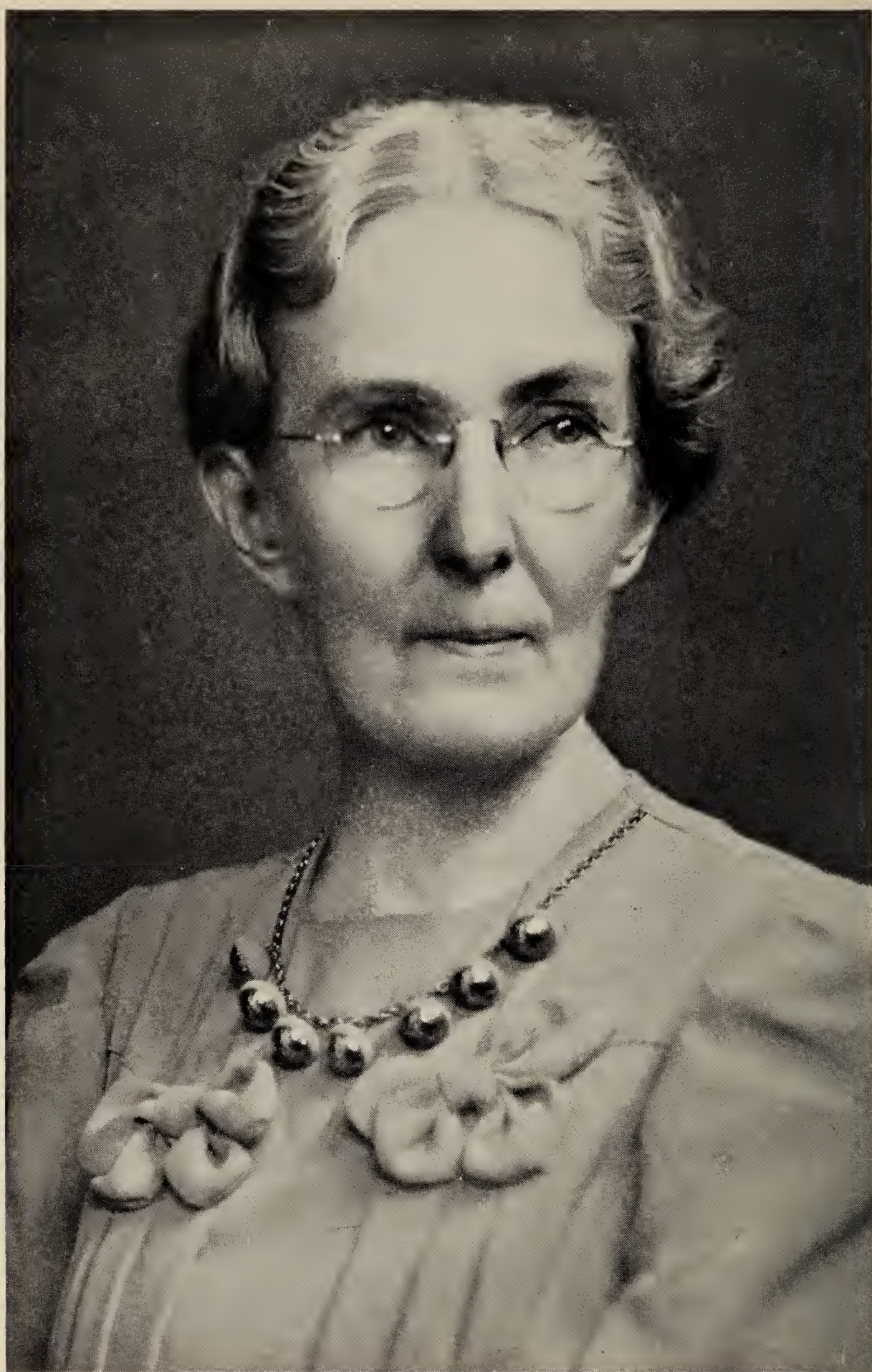


Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2019

<https://archive.org/details/historyoftownofh00prou>







*Florence Newell Prouty*



FEB 26 1952

*History of the Town of*

# HOLDEN

M A S S A C H U S E T T S

*1667-1941*

*By*

FLORENCE NEWELL PROUTY

45449

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Mass.  
H 27 c

*Published by the*

200th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

*for the Town of Holden*

*Printed by*

THE STOBBS PRESS, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

1941

Copyright, 1942



1131899

## Foreword

*Green Book & State - 5.00*

**I**N the preface to the first History of Holden, Dr. Damon writes, "If this effort shall assist a successor, or any among his fellow citizens, better to understand, or render more complete the history of his native town, it will be a sufficient and rich reward," and today, across the years, at the close of another century, we are deeply grateful to him for his painstaking recording of priceless historical facts, many of which, but for him would have been lost to our generation.

And again, for the second history of the town with its many pages of biography we owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Estes.

The data for the first part of this, the third history of Holden, has been taken largely from the Damon and Estes histories, Town Records and from Worcester libraries.

The history was written at the request of the Bicentennial Committee who suggested including briefly, the substance of the two former histories, omitting the biography contained in the latter and covering the unwritten years since 1895.

This, I have endeavored to do, striving as far as possible to avoid the repetition of subject matter.

It has been a great joy to me to have had the privilege of compiling these latest pages of our town history and I wish to express my sincere thanks to all who have contributed items of information, to Town Clerk, Walter W. Gleason for his assistance, and to the members of the History Committee who have had in their charge the task of arranging for the pictures, printing and sale of the histories: Harold B. Hunt, Rev. Robert L. Dutton, Mrs. M. Addie Holden, George C. Johnson, Miss Helen V. Savage, and to Mr. Milton F. Beecher of the General Committee who worked with members of the History Committee.

THE AUTHOR.



## *Contents*

	Page
FOREWORD . . . . .	7
CHAPTER I—Early Town History . . . . .	11
CHAPTER II—Early Wars . . . . .	19
CHAPTER III—Churches . . . . .	31
CHAPTER IV—Schools . . . . .	57
CHAPTER V—Holden District Hospital . . . . .	99
CHAPTER VI—Cemeteries . . . . .	109
CHAPTER VII—Hancock Common . . . . .	115
CHAPTER VIII—Celebrations . . . . .	117
CHAPTER IX—Forces of Nature . . . . .	147
CHAPTER X—Mills and Villages . . . . .	153
CHAPTER XI—Business in Holden . . . . .	169
CHAPTER XII—Hotels . . . . .	191
CHAPTER XIII—Public Utilities . . . . .	197
CHAPTER XIV—Town Departments and Property . . . . .	215
CHAPTER XV—Organizations . . . . .	233
CHAPTER XVI—Old Houses . . . . .	265
CHAPTER XVII—Bicentennial Celebration . . . . .	283
CHAPTER XVIII—Military . . . . .	307
CHAPTER XIX—Vital Statistics . . . . .	343



## *Illustrations*

	Facing Page
Florence Newell Prouty . . . . .	5
Elected Town Officers . . . . .	17
Town Meeting Group . . . . .	32
Trowel Club . . . . .	49
Abbott Tavern . . . . .	64
Hancock Common . . . . .	81
Present Hospital . . . . .	96
High School . . . . .	113
Bicentennial Committee . . . . .	128
Holden Municipal Light Department . . . . .	145
Holden Fire Apparatus . . . . .	160
Mrs. Holden in May 4th Costume . . . . .	177
May 4th Service in High School . . . . .	192
WTAG Station . . . . .	209
State Police . . . . .	224
Myrick Homestead . . . . .	241
Boyden Homestead . . . . .	256
Abbott House . . . . .	273
Webb House . . . . .	288
Rogers House . . . . .	305
Damon Memorial . . . . .	320

## *Chapter I*

# Early Town History

---

The earliest known records concerning the lands which comprise the township of Holden are found in the history of the town of Worcester which was incorporated June 14, 1722, and had originally its North and South halves.

Previous to this date there have been found no records of any settlement in Worcester North half; although tradition describes an Indian path leading from Lancaster to Hadley passing through the northern part of this tract of land.

In May, 1667, the General Court of Massachusetts appointed Daniel Gookin, Edward Johnson, and Andrew Belchar a committee "to take an exact viewe" of lands lying in the vicinity of Quinsigamond Pond, and being about midway between Boston and Springfield.

In October, 1668, this committee reported finding the tract to be "conveniently situated, and well watered with ponds and brooks,—and for the settling thereof, we do offer unto the Court, that which follows—viz:—

That there be a meet proportion of land granted and laid out for a town, in the best form the place will bear, about the contents of eight miles square.

That a prudent and able committee be appointed and empowered to lay it out.

That due care be taken by the committee, that a good minister of God's word be placed there as soon as may be; that such people as may be there planted, may not live as lambs in a large place."†

† Lincoln's history of Worcester, P. 3

This report was approved and accepted by the General Court. Another committee was appointed to carry its recommendations into execution.

“The persons who had obtained a grant of this tract of land from the General Court, did not consider their title as valid, until by purchase, it had been secured to them by the Indians, the original proprietors of the soil. On the 13th of July, 1674, John alias Horrasu-annoit, or Quiquonasset, Sagamore of Pakachoge, and Solomon alias Woonaskochu, Sagamore of Tataessit, together with the consent of their kindred and people, conveyed by deed the above mentioned tract of land to Daniel Gookin of Cambridge, Daniel HENCHMEN of Boston, and certain other persons, for and in consideration of £12 of lawful money, of New England currency, or in full value thereof in other specie to be paid within three months after the date of the deed.

The Indians received, “two coats and four yards of trading cloth valewed at twenty-six shillings,” as a pledge that the money should be duly paid.

Messrs. Gookin, HENCHMAN, and others fully discharged their obligations to the Indians before the three months had expired, and came into possession of “the broken upland and woodlands, woods, trees, rivers, brooks, ponds, swamps, meadows, mineralls, or any other thing, or things, whatsoever, lying or being within that tract of land, contayning eight miles square or the contents thereof, to be layd out by ye said persons or their order in time convenient.”

This extract from the first Indian deed describes the land comprising the entire townships of Worcester and Holden, before any portions were set off to form the towns of Auburn, Paxton, or West Boylston.



King Phillip's war and other events retarded the growth of this part of the Massachusetts colony.

This circumstance induced the General Court, at their session in October, 1682, to pass a vote rendering "forfeit and lost" the grant of this tract of land, to Gookin and others, unless vigorous exertions were speedily adopted to advance its settlement. The grantees were urged to take immediate action to preserve their claims. It was found by estimation that about 480 acres of good meadow land were contained within the limits of this grant. An agreement was made, at a meeting of the Proprietors, April 24, 1682, to divide the whole township into as many lots as there were acres of meadow land: "200 for Planters; 80 for public uses and other specific appropriations, and the remaining 200 to be laid out on the north extremity forming a division, afterwards known as North Worcester, and subsequently rendered permanent by the incorporation of Holden."

The dividing line between North and South Worcester was drawn during the year 1683 or 4.

In the Spring of 1723, Mr. Jonas Rice, had discovered limestone upon what was later the Bullard Farm. (See Note 1.)

The lot of land, known upon the early records of the town, as the Lime Lot, (See Note 2) was sold in the

---

NOTE 1 It is thought that the site of this home referred to so frequently in early town history must have been on or near that of the James Horace Bullard house which stood on the northeast corner of Shrewsbury and Bullard Streets until destroyed by fire some years ago. Mr. Bullard died October 16, 1930.

NOTE 2 The lime kilns were located near the West Boylston town line, "about sixty rods south of Timothy Parker's house." The ruins of this house may be seen on the northerly side of Shrewsbury Street between the WTAG station and Bullard Street.



year 1759, to Mr. Anthony Clark. A settlement in this vicinity is supposed to be the first settlement in Holden.

Near 4000 acres of land, in North Worcester was transferred from company stock to private individuals, many living in Boston and vicinity.

The Winthrop family of Boston owned extensive tracts of land in North and South Worcester, and no proprietor was more active in promoting the welfare of North Worcester than Col. Adam Winthrop of Boston.

“To facilitate settlements and raise the value of landed property, the proprietors\* appointed a committee to lay out four public roads, 6 rods wide, from the centre of North Worcester, in such ways as would be most serviceable to the said half part and the towns adjoining.

“These public roads were laid out previously to any portion of the township becoming the private property of individuals.”

“At a general meeting of the citizens of North and South Worcester, held March 3, 1740, it was voted that the North half part of the township be set off a distinct and separate town, if an act to that effect could be obtained from the General Court.” This first petition was not granted but †An Act of Incorporation passed the General Court, Jan. 2, and was signed by His Excellency, Governor Belcher, Jan. 9, 1741, and in the 14th year of the reign of George II.

This act having been passed, the North half of Worcester became a distinct and separate town “by the

\* The last meeting of the Proprietors was held September 7, 1844. The last recorded act was the appointment of a chairman December 26, 1853.

† Act of Incorporation. Note B. Damon History, Page 67.

name of Holden, with all the powers, privileges, and immunities which the inhabitants of other towns within this Province do, and by law ought to enjoy."

Holden derived its name from the Hon. Samuel Holden, a prominent merchant of London, member of Parliament, and a leading director of the Bank of England.

A friend and correspondent for more than forty years of Dr. Benjamin Coleman of Boston, "Mr. Holden furnished abundant proof of his desire to promote the cause of evangelical piety in this country.

"Dr. Coleman received from him 39 sets of Baxter's practical works, in four massive folios, to be distributed among the churches of New England."

Holden Chapel, at Cambridge, was the gift of his widow and daughter, and "numerous theological works were presented by them to the first Pastor of the Church in Holden, and to his successors."

"By an order of the General Court issued March 26, 1741, John Bigelow, a principal inhabitant of Holden, was authorized to assemble the legal voters, at some convenient place, for the choice of Town Officers. The citizens assembled in obedience to that order on the 4th of May, and Town Records, Vol. 1, p. 2, read as follows—

At an annual meeting in Holden on Monday ye fourth day of May, Anno 1741, Mr. Simon Davis, chose Moderator of said meeting. Simon Davis, John Bigelow, and Cyprian Stevens chose Select-men. Cyprian Stevens chose Town-Clerk-Sworn. Jonathan Lovell chose Constable for the East-end-Sworn. James Smith chose Constable for the West-end-Sworn. Samuel Clark, Samuel Pierce, and Samuel Heywood, chose



Assessors-Sworn. William Nickols chose Town-Treasurer-Sworn. Abraham Newton chose Tything-man-Sworn. James Gray, Jotham Bigelow, and David Brown chose Fence-Viewers. Jotham Bigelow chose Clerk of the Market-Sworn. James Grey, and Samuel Bruse, chose Hog-reeves-Sworn. Joseph Wooley and Abraham Newton chose Field-drivers-Sworn. Samuel Heywood chose Sealer of Leather-Sworn. James Caldwell and John Childs chose Deer-reeves-Sworn. John Bigelow and Joseph Hubbard chose Surveyors of Highways-Sworn. Simon Davis chose Grand-Juryman."

In two weeks another meeting was called for the transaction of town affairs.

Six votes are recorded upon the town books as having been passed on that occasion.

- "1. Voted to have ye gospel preached in said town.
2. Voted to have ye gospel preached six Sabbaths forward after the next Sabbath.
3. Voted that Samuel Pierce, William Nickell and Thomas McMollen be a committee to provide a minister and a place for his Entertainment.
4. Voted to have a wrighting and reading school kept in sd town voted to have it Three months to begin at the first of September next the persons hereafter named were chosen a committee to provide a Schoolmaster viz. Cyprian Stevens and Samuel Thompson.
5. Voted to build a surficant pound in said Town—voted that all persons in sd Town come to the age of sixteen years shall attend the work of erecting said pound on the Twenty-fifth day of May or pay ten shillings per man.









ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS



6. Voted that fifty pounds be raised to defray charge of preaching and schooling. This meeting dissolved."

## CHANGES IN TOWN BOUNDARIES

"The Legislature several times set off small portions of the territory of Holden to the neighboring towns.

Thus, a long strip on the east was bestowed on West Boylston. In 1796, the inhabitants of what is now West Boylston, unable to get incorporated as a town, became, for the sake of convenience of worship, the Second Precinct of Boylston, Shrewsbury and Holden. January 30, 1808, this division became permanent by the incorporation of the town. To the dowry of her new neighbor Holden contributed a strip of land about five miles long, one hundred rods wide at the southern end. February 13, 1804, six men, John Davis, Ebenezer Boynton, Nathan Harrington, Samuel Harrington, Micah Harrington and Ephraim Harrington with their polls and estimates were set off to Paxton, and April 9, 1838, part of the farm of Samuel D. Harrington, containing about ten acres, was also set off to Paxton.

On the other hand, March 19, 1831, a tract of land belonging to Hezekiah Bent, amounting to one hundred and thirty-five rods, was set from Paxton to Holden. These changes from one town to another account for the present irregularity of the boundary, which was originally straight."





## *Chapter II*

# Early Wars

---

Early in the history of the town there were wars and rumors of war.

Edward Everett said, "Between the years 1755 and 1763 the people of Massachusetts performed an amount of military service, probably never exacted of any other people, living under a government professing to be free. Not a village in Massachusetts, but sent its sons to lay their bones in the West Indies, in Nova Scotia, and the Canadian Wilderness."

Although muster rolls are incomplete, we know that Holden sent out a full quota of brave patriots, and at least one, Sergeant Ephraim Bennett, died in service on the Crown Point Expedition in 1755.

From the original muster rolls and other war records in the State archives Dr. Damon "copied the names of such persons as engaged in the French and Indian War and who were drafted from Holden:—

William Fisher, Richard Flagg, Samuel Boyd, and Peter Nutten, enlisted into the company of Capt. Benjamin Flagg of Worcester, to strengthen the forces stationed at Lake George.

Henry Rice, Job Harris, Samuel Estabrook, John Murphey, Jedediah Estabrook, (son of Samuel Estabrook) Samuel Hubbard, Jr., Samuel Bigelow, John Woodward, Samuel Thompson, and Ebenezer Fletcher, enlisted into the company of Capt. John Chandler, for the invasion of Canada.

In an expedition to Crown Pt., the following persons served under Capt. Fletcher, of Rutland, viz.,

Ebenezer Fletcher, 1st Lieut., Ebenezer Fletcher, Jr., 2nd Lieut., Samuel Estabrook and son, Job Harris, Samuel Hubbard and John Murphey, Privates," and doubtless many others whose names were not recorded.

On August 19, 1758, "A muster Roll of a Detachment of men from Capt. John Bigelow Company of Holden who marched from Holden to Sheffield being 113 mile out," is given as follows: John Bigelow, Captain, Samuel Hubbard, Ensign, John Child, Sergeant, Joseph Greenwood, Sergeant, Isaac Smith, Sergeant, Simon Davis, Sergeant, William Flagg, Corporal, Moses Wheeler, Corporal, Ebenezer Fletcher, Gideon Fisher, Samuel Thompson, Thomas Dryden, William Barber, Benjamin Allen, Job Harris, Ebenezer Goodnow, Jedidiah Estabrook, Isaac Thompson.

The first allusion to events leading to the Revolutionary War was found in the church records in the hand-writing of the pastor. '1768, October 12, Observed as a Day of Fasting and Prayer on account of the Aspects of divine Providence in our public affairs.

"By consulting Provincial history, the cause is readily apparent why a day of fasting and prayer was observed. October 1st numerous companies of British soldiers had been stationed in the city of Boston."

"A town meeting of the citizens of Boston was held November 2nd, 1772. A large committee—James Otis, chairman—was appointed on the motion of Samuel Adams. This committee was instructed to state the rights of the colonists and this Province in particular, as men, as Christians, and as subjects; to communicate and publish the same to the several towns in the Province and to the World, as the sense of this town, with the infringements and violations thereof that have been,



or from time to time, may be made; also requesting each town a free communication of their sentiments on the subject. The letter of correspondence to the several towns, closes with these words, 'Let us consider, brethren, we are struggling for our best birthrights and inheritance, which being infringed renders all blessings precarious in their enjoyment, and consequently trifling in their value. Let us disappoint the men, who are raising themselves on the ruin of this country. Let us convince every invader of our freedom, that we will be as free, as the Constitution of our fathers recognized will justify.' "

A pamphlet containing the resolutions of this meeting and the appeal of the committee was printed and extensively circulated through the colonies, but particularly in the towns and Province of Massachusetts Bay.

The public mind was aroused. The resolves of the Boston Patriots were cordially responded to from the most retired villages in the Province.

**The citizens of Holden passed fourteen resolutions,† making known in the most unequivocal language, their sentiments."**

The first one of these reads as follows:

"I—Resolved that Liberty both Religious and Civil is a most Precious and Inestimable gift of the Great and Glorious Creator of all things granted to all Rational Creatures neither can any Person or Persons innocently give or sell it away from himself anymore than he can take it from another."

These resolutions were signed by the committee, John Child, Jonathan Wheeler, Andrew Smith, James

† Town Records, Vol. 1.

Davis, and being "put to Vote" were passed in the Affirmative.

War came, and Holden furnished a company of seventy men, ready to leave their homes, at the first alarm.

"Nearly one tenth of the entire population was prepared to engage in service.

During the progress of the war, drafts were made for soldiers from Holden to serve at various military stations in the Northern States. Wherever troubles existed or dangers were apprehended, thither marched soldiers from this town." (See Military)

"Only one person was killed in actual service, Thomas Heard, who fell near Saratoga, N. Y.

Moses Wheeler, and Jeremiah Fuller died at Valley Forge, Penn., having suffered most intensely from cold and hunger."

In the long days of the struggle, Holden became a refuge for the Tories, who fled from Worcester and fortified themselves for a time on Stone House Hill.

"Captain George Webb was the only commissioned officer in the Continental service from Holden. At the time of his enlistment he was not an inhabitant of the town. He came with his family to this place during the war. Captain Webb was a fearless soldier, and a high spirited officer. Whenever an enterprise requiring bravery and skill was to be undertaken, Washington and Lafayette knew Captain Webb to be a man to their minds."

The first lines of a letter from General Lafayette to Captain Webb reads as follows:

"Dear Sir, Your successful scarmish—Has afforded me the greatest pleasure and I request you will receive



yourself and present to your company My best thanks on the occasion."

In his company, Deborah Sampson, a young American girl, served as a Continental soldier for nearly three years, and bore while in service, the name of Robert Shurtlieff.

"She performed the duties of every station assigned to her, with punctual exactness, fidelity and honor."

"The citizens of Holden entered into a Solemn covenant to sustain the committee, chosen to watch for the public safety, and voted that such persons, as refused to unite with them should have their names published in the Boston Gazette as enemies of their country. The town, also, voted that every blacksmith, shoemaker, miller and housewright do not directly do or cause to be done any sort of business, in their respective occupations for any of those persons, who would not sign the covenant, which was to be lodged at John Abbots, one month, for the inhabitants of Holden to sign.†

This decided movement was not regarded as sufficient for the general good. To prevent monopoly upon such articles as were considered the necessities of life, the Selectmen, and Committee of Safety were empowered by an Act of the Provincial Congress to establish ultimum prices."

The Damon and Estes histories give in part a "List of Prices to a Number of articles as agreed upon" from Town Records, Vol. 2, pages 40, 41.

Dr. Damon writes: "Among papers belonging to the Rev. Mr. Avery, I have found a small memorandum book, which contains some entries of peculiar interest. The book bears the date 1782. That was a period of

---

† Town Records, Vol. 2, Page 15, Jan. 3rd, 1775.

great distress among the people. The war had been long. Money was scarce, and it was with some difficulty that Mr. Avery received his annual salary. His parishioners, however, were disposed to share with their pastor the good things of life:

“Memorandum of gifts received. Of Dea. Hubbard, a piece of beef; a pail of soap; a loaf of bread; a few candles; 2 quarts of milk; a cheese and 4 lbs. of butter. Of Mr. Abbott, a piece of beef and of pork, also a spare rib; 3 candles; some malt and a piece of bread, also two wash tubs, and 30 nails, and a few hops. Of Lieut. Hubbard, a piece of beef, a cheese and some malt. Of Mr. Ebenezer Estabrook, a leg of pork. Of Dea. Fiske, a piece of beef, Jan’y 5th. Of Capt. Samuel Hubbard, a leg of pork and a spare rib, Jan’y 6th. Of Mr. Howe, a piece of pork, Jan’y 6th. Of Mr. Cheney, a cheese and some sausages. Of Mr. Josiah Cheney, Jr., some beans. Of Mr. Jona. Rice, a leg of pork. Of Mr. Winch, a piece of fresh meat-lamb. Of Capt. Davis, a cheese and some sauce— Of Aaron Wheeler, a broom, soon after I came to my house. Of Moses Smith, 2 dozen candles, some butter. Of Mr. Dryden,  $\frac{1}{2}$  doz. pigeons.”

“The ladies of that day were equally thoughtful in regard to the wants of the Parish Priest. Of Mrs. Benjamin Flagg, a cheese, of Mrs. Fisk. a lb. of combed flax. Of Mrs. Elisha Hubbard, some flax. Of Mrs. Potter, some butter and a broom. Of Mrs. Newton, a piece of veal and a calf’s head. Of Mrs. Holt, some cloth for a shirt. Of Mrs. Mead, some butter, apples, potatoes. Of Mrs. Heard, a loin of veal.”

“The most abundant evidence might be adduced, to show, that the people of Holden unitedly, cordially



and manfully engaged with their fellow countrymen in the war of the Revolution. The trials, hardships, and dangers of eight summer and eight winter campaigns had not quenched the ardent love of liberty in the bosoms of colonists, who could say, 'We are two millions, one fifth fighting men. We are bold and vigorous, and we call no man master.'†

"It is not a point of uncertain conjecture, but of sober history that the principles of liberty set forth in the Declaration of Independence, had previously been a subject of discussion in almost every village throughout the thirteen colonies. A rough block of granite may be squared and polished, but that block was granite before the stone hewer's tool and the burnisher's instrument prepared its surface. The fourteen resolutions passed by the citizens of Holden, and similar passed by other towns, contained the elements afterwards combined in that memorable document of State, in which the people of this land declared themselves—Independent, Free and Equal. Taking the proceedings and resolves of the inhabitants of this town as evidence of the actual state of things among the colonists, no candid man can rise from their perusal without the impression upon his mind that each village must have had its Jefferson, Adams, Sherman, Franklin, and Henry."

"The immediate and lasting effects of the Revolutionary war upon the interests of this town, deserve a few passing remarks. The un-wise policy of England was first felt along our sea-coast. (1) Numerous families hitherto obtaining their livelihood from the seas, were driven to other pursuits. For this cause, not less

---

† James Otis.



than ten families removed from Harwich and vicinity (upon the Cape) to Holden. Such were the Rogers, settling two miles south. (2) All lands belonging to persons supporting the cause of the mother country, were confiscated. Many hundreds of acres within this township were transferred to the State. The history of one tract, containing about six hundred acres, deserves notice. This tract of woodland belonged to William Brattle, Esq., of Cambridge. Under an Act of the Legislature, passed 1781, it was sold to pay State debts. Monsieur Pierre Matthieu Andre, captain of the ship Jonathan, belonging to Jean Francis Billou of Marseilles, in the South of France, purchased this tract of land, for £1,124, or about \$6 per acre.

The ship Jonathan having been condemned as unseaworthy, was sold and a part of the avails was invested in the purchase of this land. For many years it was under the care of Ebenezer Estabrook, senior, and subsequently under the care of his son. Sufficient wood was from time to time cut off to pay the taxes. After much negotiation, it was sold in the year 1826, for \$11 per acre. The proceeds were transmitted to the heirs of the original owner in France, a sufficient amount having been deducted to defray expenses attending the sale. The origin of the name French land, will have been apparent. (3) The war of the Revolution had scarcely been brought to a happy termination, before internal disorders threatened to overthrow the general government. The insurrection, known in history as the Shays' Rebellion, stands prominent upon the annals of our country. The spirit of disaffection very sensibly disturbed the order and decorum, which almost uniformly has characterized our town. I would now re-

frain from an illusion to this subject if our town records, and the voice of tradition were silent. Historical truth, however, often duly checks and properly tempers the glow of admiration which we sometimes feel when contemplating the patriotic exertions of our fathers. The financial interests of our country were most deplorable, immediately subsequent to the war. Money was scarce. The currency was in disorder. Public and private debts were great, and in some parts of the country the load was well nigh insupportable.† To remedy a state of things so undesirable, some of our citizens resorted to the most unjustifiable measures. Their wrath broke forth upon the Courts of Justice. Capt. Wheeler of Hubbardston, the first week of September, 1786, heading a band of armed men, took possession of the Court House in Worcester. The standard of revolt being raised, drew some of our townsmen from the duties of quiet and peaceable citizens. The Court adjourned until December following. The insurgents flushed with their partial success, returned home to foment greater commotions.

Other portions of the State caught the spirit of discontent. As the time approached for session of the Court of Common Pleas, in December, the insurgents, (or Regulators) as they styled themselves headed by Daniel Shays,‡ were gathering their forces in the vicinity of Worcester. The court, in the meantime, opened at the Sun Tavern, (United States Hotel) and adjourned until January 23rd, without transacting farther business. December 6th, Shays entered Worcester mounted upon a white horse. About 800 troops

---

† See Lincoln's History of Worcester, Page 115.

‡ See Lincoln's History of Worcester, Pages 369-371.



formed his army. To compose this force numerous soldiers went from Holden.

These incidents took place on Thursday. The next day was spent in consultation. A terrible storm of snow occurred Saturday. Gloom and despondency pervaded the bosoms of Shays' soldiers. Such as went from Holden, returned through the drifting snow to spend the Sabbath with their families. Shays conducted the remnant of his forces to Springfield, to interrupt the Court of Common Pleas, about to commence its session at that place.

The Governor of Massachusetts called upon the Militia of Boston and vicinity, to march under the command of Gen. Lincoln, and to force the insurgents to surrender. Success crowned the efforts of the constituted authorities. Peace was again restored to the country. I have freely spoken of the part taken by some of the citizens of Holden, because I became acquainted with many of the particulars from the lips of a Regulator. In perfect good humor, he gave me a list of such Regulators, as went from Holden, not forgetting to enroll himself.

Resolutions disapproving the measures deemed justifiable by some of the inhabitants of Holden, were passed by a highly respectable body of men in town. Their names I feel myself honored to read.—John Child, Richard Flagg, Samuel Heywood, Amos Heywood, Reuben Paddock, James Davis, Isaiah Brown, Thomas Knowles, John Abbott, Paul Goodale, Samuel Chickering, John Dods, George Webb, Jonas Hubbard, John Holden, Israel Davis, Jr., Edmund Hall, Asa Greenwood, James Dods, Joseph Hubbard, Joseph Hubbard, Jr., Tilly Hubbard, Samuel Hubbard, El-



nathan Davis, Sam. Heywood, Jr., Samuel Damon, Benjamin Flagg, Lemuel Abbott, Aaron Newell, Abel Howe.

The document to which they were appended is supposed to have been drafted by the Rev. Mr. Avery. These gentlemen caused their protest, with some accompanying documents to be published in the Worcester Magazine for the third week of January, 1787.”†

“If this was a proper occasion, many palliating considerations might be suggested, which would go far to remove the charge of treason from persons attempting, by military force, to arrest the legal Court Sessions at Worcester and other places.”

## DEATH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

The death of George Washington occurred at Mount Vernon, December 14, 1799, and Congress recommended and set apart February 22, 1800, as the day when the nation unitedly might render becoming public testimonials of their sorrow and grief for the illustrious DEAD.

“The citizens of Holden observed the day by engaging in appropriate exercises. The military parade was conducted by Capt. George Webb. A long procession passed between files of soldiers, whose inclining heads rested upon their “arms reversed.” An eulogy was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Avery. The singing is reported to have been excellent, and was conducted by Mr. Joseph Estabrook.

---

† Damon History, Pages 81-91.

The following lines, set to appropriate music, were sung:—

“From Vernon’s Mount, behold the Hero rise,  
Resplendent forms attend him through the skies;  
The shades of War-worn Vet’rans round him throng,  
And lead enrapt their honored Chief along.  
A laurel wreath th’ immortal Warren bears;  
An arch triumphal Mercer’s hand prepares;  
Young Lawrence ’erst th’ avenging bolt of war  
With port majestic guides the glittering car;  
Montgonery’s God-like form directs the way,  
And Greene unfolds the gates of endless day,  
While angels trumpet-tongued proclaim through air,  
Due honors for the first of men, prepare.”

### *Chapter III*

## Churches

---

### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The first vote recorded upon the town books was "to have ye gospel preached in said town."

In December 1736, James Thompson and sixteen other persons obtained a vote from the proprietors to erect a house for public worship:

"50 feet long; 40 feet wide; and 22 between the joynts."

At the same meeting it was also voted that the meeting house should be erected "about 60 rods southward from the place where four roads meet." Capt. Benjamin Flagg, Lieut. Simon Davis, and Lieut. Joseph Hubbard were appointed a committee to select the proper spot.

"The first meeting house occupied the site where now stands the house of Col. Damon. It was never painted. The windows were small, and set with diamond glass in leaden sashes; nine in front and five in each end. There were a number of noon houses near, for the accommodation of persons living at a distance."

On July 19, 1742, the town voted unanimously to invite the Rev. Joseph Davis to become pastor of the church in Holden.

He was born July 16, 1720, in Concord, from which town his father, Lieutenant Simon Davis came, to be one of the first settlers here. He was graduated from Harvard College in 1740, and ordained in Holden, December 22, 1742. He married Catherine Jones, a na-



tive of Weston, who died in 1815, at the age of ninety-seven.

At his ordination pastors and delegates were present from Lancaster, Worcester, Shrewsbury, and Rutland, and a church was organized that day consisting of fourteen male members, nine coming by letter from other churches and five upon profession.

From the church in Rutland came Simon Davis, Joseph Davis, Cyprian Stevens, Samuel Hubbard, David Brown, and John Fletcher, from Reading, William Nickols, from Worcester, John Bigelo, from Weston, Jabez Harrington, and "the following were received at the gathering of the church: Samuel Pierce, Jotham Bigelow, Samuel Heywood, Joseph Hubbard and Amos Heywood."

In a sermon preached January 2, 1793, fifty years since his introduction to the work of the gospel ministry, Mr. Davis states: "There was a remarkable sickness about seven years after my settlement. Twenty-two persons died. And about six years after, the year after the great earthquake, a raging distemper carried off about forty-five persons and children."

The 20th of August, 1761, was observed as a day of feasting and prayer by reason of a severe drought.

In January, 1773 Mr. Davis was dismissed at his own request.

For nearly two years the church remained without a pastor.

"December 21st, 1774, Mr. Joseph Avery, having received a call from the church and town, was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry.

"He was born October 14, 1751, son of Deacon William Avery of South Parish, Dedham. At sixteen, he





TOWN MEETING GROUP







entered Harvard University, graduating in 1771 with much honor.

“In December 1777, he married Miss Allen, of Worcester.

“During his long, faithful pastorate of fifty years, which ended in 1822, he was given the title of peacemaker. He continued living among the people he loved until his death on March 5, 1824.

“Among interesting and valuable documents preserved by Dr. Damon is ‘An Oration, delivered by Joseph Avery.’

“This is at once the only printed production of this venerated pastor and the only record of such early celebrations of Independence Day in this town. The customary toasts, eighteen in number, were subjoined ‘by desire.’ Some of them interestingly illustrate the sentiment of the times, as for example, ‘The United States—May their union be complete; and may they never want wise and good men to guide their public affairs.’

“ ‘The American Navy’—May its flag become respected by all nations,’ and the one volunteer toast, ‘The Fair Sex—May they ever meet with that attention, friendship, and fidelity, to which their eminent rank, and high importance in life so justly entitle them’.”

Rev. Mr. Avery was among the first in town to ride in a chaise.

In 1787 the question arose whether or not the town should repair the old meeting house, or build a new one. The latter course was deemed advisable and in 1789 the present house was erected in nearly the centre of the acre of land which was deeded to the town in that year by the Hon. John Hancock, “for a public

common, and the accommodation of a public meeting house."

In 1816, the sum of twenty-five dollars was voted "to purchase an Instrument or Instruments to assist the Vocal Musick in this Town."

In 1819, Sunday Schools were established, at first, one in each district of the town. After a year's trial of this arrangement, the work was concentrated at the church.

In 1820, stoves were introduced. The meeting house was rebuilt during the years 1827-8, and it was moved to its present site, a belfry added and a bell purchased at an estimated cost of \$550, and for many years this was rung at twelve o'clock, noon, and at nine in the evening.

It was long customary to vote an annual appropriation for a singing school to be under the care of the Congregational Church.

The third pastor, Horatio Bardwell, D. D., was born in Belchertown, November 3, 1778. He entered Andover Theological Seminary in 1811. June 21, 1815, he was ordained as a missionary of the American Board. The same year he married Miss Rachel Forbush, of Andover. They sailed for Bombay, remaining six years. His health being impaired by the climate, he returned to New England and on October 22, 1823, was settled as colleague pastor in Holden.

In 1841 he received the honorary degree of Master or Arts from Dartmouth College and in 1857 the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Amherst College.

During his pastorate the church and town experienced powerful revivals of religion. At his own re-



quest he was dismissed from his pastorate in Holden on October 24, 1833.

After 1822, business relating to the church was transacted only at special meetings, to which were summoned "all the inhabitants of said Town qualified to act on the following articles," and during this period, "the participation of the town in matters ecclesiastical forever ceased."

1131899

The fourth pastor of the church, William Pomeroy Paine, was born in Ashfield, August 1, 1802. He was graduated from Amherst College in 1827 and from Andover Theological Seminary in 1832, receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from his alma mater in 1856. He was ordained October 24, 1833, and on June 11, 1834, he married Sarah Mack, of Plainfield, who worked earnestly by his side for the church and for every worthy cause. She died October 3, 1868.

Dr. Paine served as pastor for forty-two years, and on Friday, October 24, 1873, townspeople and many former residents of Holden gathered to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of his coming.

The principal event of the day was the "Historical Address" given by Dr. Paine, himself, in which he reviewed the years of his pastorate, showing the progress made by church, and town during that period, and using as his text, Deut. 8:2 Thou shalt remember the way in which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years. At the evening session nearly one hundred members of the Baptist and Congregational choirs and a "large number of singers, of former days, took their places in the Singers' Seats."

After an anthem many "Sentiments" were given by the Toastmaster, Ethan Davis.



Among them were the following:

The Congregational Church of Holden: The home of good and true children.

Rev. Cyrus M. Perry, of Southwick, responded.

The gentleman who first brought our pastor to our homes. Then a stage driver, afterwards a member of Congress, now crowned with still higher honors as president of the Boston, Barre & Gardner Railroad: Hon. Ginery Twichell.

Mr. Twichell was unable to be present.

Woman: Though strangely ignored in the formation of this church, yet in every stage of its progress cheerfully and vigorously ready for every good word and work.

Response by Chas. W. Gleason, of Natick.

Holden, formerly Worcester North, when she becomes a great city like Worcester, may she have as good a Mayor.

Response by Mayor Jillson of Worcester.

At the close of this happy occasion an original hymn by Rev. Elnathan Davis was sung.

Dr. Paine resigned as active pastor in 1875, but served as pastor emeritus until his death on November 28, 1876.

The Church continued its growth under a number of pastorates of shorter duration. These are as follows:

William A. Lamb, 1875-1876.

Henry C. Fay, 1880-1882.

Frederic A. Balcom, 1884-1886.

Wilbur Rand, 1887-1888.

Melvin J. Allen, 1888-1890.

During Mr. Allen's pastorate a new pipe organ was installed at a cost of \$1300.

June 1, 1892, Rev. Thomas Earle Babb began his pastorate which lasted for twenty years.

Mr. Babb was born August 21, 1840, in Orange, New Jersey, but spent his boyhood in New York City, preparing for College at New York University Grammar School. He matriculated at Amherst College, and while there taught school in Hubbardston one term, traveling there by stage coach from Worcester. He received a B.A. degree from Amherst in 1865, attaining Phi Beta Kappa honors. After two years at Bangor Seminary he went to Andover Theological Seminary, graduating in 1868, and that same year Amherst granted him the degree of Master of Arts.

He was ordained at Eastport, Maine, in 1869, and held pastorates in Oxford, Victor, N. Y., West Brookfield, and Chelsea before coming to Holden.

He was married in 1869 to Ellen Augusta Cook of Laconia, N. H. Of their children, Agnes Babb Knowlton, Louise Babb Rich, Dr. Emily A. Babb, Thomas Earle, Jr., and Gertrude Babb Wright, Agnes, wife of Frank J. Knowlton, resides in Holden.

From the time of his coming to Holden, his life and that of his family were absorbed in working for the upbuilding of the church and community. He taught large groups of adults in Sunday School, and joined earnestly in the work with the young people, and, with his ever keen interest and help "Allured to brighter worlds, and led the way."

During his pastorate, (in 1908) the new parsonage was built on the northwest corner of Phillips Road and Highland Street.

He rendered the town valuable service in his long term of forty-six years as trustee of Damon Memorial.

For many years he wrote many beautiful poems and hymns, which added enjoyment to many an occasion.

Although his resignation was given in 1912, he continued to "serve" in many ways. He was made Pastor Emeritus in 1921.

On June 5, 1940, Andover-Newton Theological School conferred upon him the honorary degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology.

He died July 18, 1940, only a little more than a month before his one hundredth birthday, August 21, 1940.

October 8, 1912, Rev. George E. Cary was ordained, and installed in the church, and his fruitful pastorate of seven years ended Sept. 22, 1919. From October 1919 to April 1922 Rev. Edward Evans served. In 1920 the parsonage was moved to the southwest corner of Highland Street and Phillips Road.

April 9, 1922, Rev. Charles O. Eames began his nine year pastorate, which was a period of spiritual and material growth and encouragement.

In 1927, an addition was made on the rear of the church, the interior was entirely refinished, and other improvements were made.

Rev. Mr. Eames closed his pastorate Jan. 25, 1931, and Rev. P. Virgil Harris served from Feb. 1, 1931, until Dec. 31, 1935.

Sept. 1, 1936, Robert Lee Dutton was called and was ordained in the church Dec. 9, 1936.

## BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptist denomination had representatives in Holden nearly twenty-five years before the organiza-



tion of the Church December 31, 1807. Rev. Elisha Andrews, pastor of the Baptist Church in Templeton, preached here from time to time, and members were regarded as a branch of the Baptist Church in that town. The records of the Society commence June 4, 1804, when Ephraim Mirrick was chosen Moderator, John Hubbard, Clerk, and Asa Howe, Collector.

“On Dec. 31, 1807, at an Ecclesiastical Council, holden at the dwelling house of Brother Abraham Gates,—a moderator and clerk were chosen and after solemn prayer, by the moderator, proceeded to business. After mature deliberation and careful examination the council voted unanimously to constitute into a distinct church the following Brothers and Sisters, viz. —Aaron Perry, Ephraim Mirrick, Hezekiah Walker, Abraham Gates, John Hubbard, Solomon Parminter, Asa Howe, Silas Walker, Charles Brooks, Eli Hubbard, Benjamin Hubbard, Jotham Howe, Thomas Howe, Samuel Abbott, John Walker, Paul Colburn, Thomas Marshall, Daniel Shepard, Pelatiah Allen, John Brown, William Everett, Polly Sargent, Lydia Parminter, Lydia Hubbard, Mehitabel Colburn, Hannah Howe, Sally Howe, Polly Walker, Lydia Parminter, Jr., Polly Hubbard, Elinor Howe, Polly Henry, Lucretia Howe, Nancy Brooks, Polly Buck, Patty Caldwell, Sarah Pratt, Sarah Mason, Rachel Walker, Dorothy Howe, Tabitha Perry, Thankful Mason, Lucy Walker, Eunice Metcalf, Judith Gates, Persis Walker, and Nabby Shepard.”

During these early years it appears that when Rev. Mr. Andrews was not present, the brethren cooperated in supplying the pulpit. Rev. Thomas Marshall and Rev. John Walker served frequently.

Rev. Thomas Marshall was born in Holden, in 1785. His father was a saddler and harness maker, whose shop stood near the corner of the common.

He was ordained Sept. 15, 1813, and for some years preached part time in Holden and in West Boylston.

Before 1820, there was no church building, services being held in homes in various parts of the town. In 1810 worship was conducted for a time in the shed chamber of Thomas Marshall, which stood near the northwest corner of the common.

In 1819, the lot next north of Damon Memorial was acquired and a building erected at once. This was dedicated in 1820, and used until the building of the present edifice.

"At a meeting of the church held December 31, 1817, it was voted that (we) request Elder Walker to take the pastoral charge of this church by being installed on the first Wednesday in February, 1818."

Rev. John Walker was born May 20, 1789, on his father's farm in the extreme northern part of Holden. He was licensed to preach Aug. 20, 1813, and married Eunice Metcalf, Nov. 29, 1813. He became pastor Feb. 20, 1818.

The church was greatly prospered under his pastorate which continued until April, 1831. "Sunday School work began, as is practically certain, as early as the Spring of 1820.

"The earliest record bears date of 1833, when a 'Sabbath School Association' was formed of those 'desirous to come into a more systematic course of operations in the management of the Sabbath School.'"

Rev. Appleton Belnap served as pastor from June 13, 1832, to October 27, 1833.



A year later, September 25, 1834, Rev. George Waters was ordained pastor and continued thus until March 31, 1838, during which period many new members were received and the present house of worship was erected and dedicated on December 24, 1835.

June 23, 1838, Rev. Samuel Everett became pastor, serving until April 4, 1839.

On August 12, 1840, Rev. Andrew Pollard, a native of Harvard, became pastor and guided the church wisely until his resignation on April 1, 1843.

Rev. Woodman H. Watson was ordained here June 21, 1843, and remained until April 16, 1847.

Rev. Josiah H. Tilton became pastor November 17, 1848, serving until 1852. During his pastorate a large revival was experienced, and in 1848 the parsonage was erected at a cost of more than \$1,100.

In 1853 Rev. Andrew Dunn came for one year and from 1854 to 1856 Rev. Timothy C. Tingley was pastor. In 1857 Mr. Tilton became pastor for the second time, remaining for two years.

July 23, 1859, Rev. Lester Williams, Jr., was called to the church and served during the troublous days preceding the Civil War. His pasorate ended in 1864 and Rev. John S. Haradon served from 1865 to 1868. Rev. George W. Kinney came in 1869 and remained pastor until 1871.

Following Mr. Kinney came Rev. John Rounds, in 1872. During his pastorate of two years, many changes were made in the interior of the church.

The steps were removed from the front of the building, inside staircases were arranged, the galleries were removed, and a vestry was provided.



January 11, 1875, Mr. John W. Howe of Worcester, a native of Holden, presented the church a clock which was placed in the tower, and a year later a bell was purchased at the cost of \$650.

Pastorates which followed were: Rev. John K. Chase, 1874-1879; Rev. Isaac S. Hamblen, 1880-1886; Rev. David F. Estes, 1886-1891.

In 1890 Dea. William Howe presented to the church a vocalion organ, and in 1891 the interior of the church was entirely renovated at a cost of \$2,500.

In April 1892, Rev. Benjamin H. Lane became pastor, remaining for two years. In 1893 Mr. William C. Metcalf resigned the office of church clerk held by him for thirty-five years. Rev. Joseph Walther served as pastor from January 1895 to March 1902, and Rev. Alfred E. Alton from September 1902 to January 1906.

Mr. Alton was born in Troy, New York, July 19, 1874, and received his early education in the Troy High School and Troy Academy. He was graduated from Princeton University in 1898 and from Colgate Theological Seminary in 1902 with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity.

That year he became pastor of the Holden Baptist Church, remaining until 1906. April 3, 1906, he married Blanche Lousie Warren, daughter of Henry W. and Dora Howe Warren. They had two children, Jean and Henry Warren Alton.

After serving as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Rome, New York, for five years he received appointment in 1911 as Professor of Biblical Literature at Colgate University where he remained for twenty-three years. During this time he took a very active part in the organizations connected with the school. He was

also a member of the Religious Educational Society, the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, the Association of Biblical Teachers of America, secretary of the Religious Commission of the Baptist Convention of the State of New York, and vice-president of the New York Baptist Young People's Society.

During the summer of 1917 he served as Religious Work Secretary at Camp McClellan, Alabama, and in 1918 at Camp Merritt, New Jersey. He was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Hamilton College in 1926 and was awarded a prize of \$1,000 for unique work performed by him at Colgate University. On his retirement he was made Professor Emeritus of the University, and in 1936 he was made Pastor Emeritus of the Holden Baptist Church. He died in Holden June 26, 1940.

In 1906 a pipe organ was given to the church in memory of Deacon William Howe by his daughters and their husbands.

Rev. Ralph E. Story served for one year and in 1908 Rev. Simeon Spidle was called for two years.

At that time the horse sheds were removed from Maple Street.

In 1911 Rev. Wesley DeJardins was called to be pastor and in December 1914, Rev. James Warren Leonard began his fruitful pastorate of eleven years, ending in December 1925. The following May Rev. Harold Heyward was called, and remained until 1929. In 1927 the church was incorporated and by-laws were adopted.

August 18, 1928, an electrical storm damaged the church steeple and destroyed the clock. In the fall the



tower was rebuilt and Mrs. Dora Warren presented to the church a new clock.

January 8, 1930, Rev. Elmer C. Adams was called to become pastor.

Sunday, January 1, 1933, the 125th anniversary of the organization of the church was observed with a service largely attended by members and guests. Rev. Hugh Heath was the speaker.

In 1936, Mr. Waterman L. Williams retired as moderator after thirty years of service.

On September 21, 1938, the church, like many others in New England, lost its steeple during the hurricane which also did much other damage to the church and parsonage. The steeple was rebuilt in 1939.

In January, 1939, Mr. Bertram S. Newell retired as church clerk after serving consecutively for forty-two years.

October 27, 1940, the resignation of Mr. Adams was read and deepest regret was felt throughout the community where he had labored so long and faithfully. Mr. Adams resigned to become field secretary of the Massachusetts Baptist Commission.

December 1, 1940, Rev. Newton E. Woodbury was called, and began his pastoral duties March 1, 1941.

## UNIVERSALIST

Universalist sentiment gained a foothold here as early as 1838, when the Congregational Church took up labor with Joel Blake for holding such views. Public services were held in the Town Hall in 1843, 1846, 1851, and 1853. Among others, Rev. Hosea Ballou sometimes came here to speak. These were merely occasional services, as no formal organization was ever



made, though such sentiments have continued to be held and professed by individuals. Among the prominent adherents to the Universalist views have been Asahel Clapp, Levi Smith, Jr., and Charles Turner.

Advent meetings were begun in about the year 1840, and were continued with more or less regularity for nearly ten years. After being suspended for a time, they were resumed about 1857, and continued nearly twenty years. Many different preachers spoke here from time to time. Rev. Ezra T. Crowell was the only minister of this denomination who ever resided in town. Among others, the ministrations of Rev. Messrs. Miles Grant, William N. Pile, Horace Hastings, and Thomas M. Preble are remembered.

There was no formal organization; a Sunday School, however, was held whenever there was preaching. John Richardson, Nathan Howe, Moses Smith, Dana Newton, Timothy Parker, Henry Parker, and Howard Holden were among the leading men here of this denomination.

## METHODIST EPISCOPAL

Methodist Episcopal meetings were held in town for many years. In the Minutes of the Methodist Episcopal Conferences, the name of Holden appears from 1841 to 1854. From 1841 to 1849, Holden was associated with Rutland. Rev. Messrs. Charles H. Ainsworth, 1841-3; John M. Merrill, 1843-5; N. M. Merrill, 1845-6; Horace Moulton, 1846-7; Simon Putnam, 1847-8; and W. F. Lecount, 1848-9, served upon this circuit. For the year 1849-50, it was arranged that Holden should be supplied separately, but the name of the supply is not given. In 1850-1 it was again united

with Rutland, and Rev. D. K. Merrill was appointed to the charge. In 1851-2, Holden was again separated from Rutland, and left as a mission "to be supplied." In 1852-3, Rev. Simon Putnam was appointed to "Princeton and Holden." In 1853-4, Holden was joined to Oakdale. In 1854 and thereafter, the charge is styled simply Oakdale. There have been Methodists in town ever since, but they have usually held membership in Oakdale. In addition to the names above mentioned, Rev. Messrs. Bayliss, Cook, MacKay, Munger, and Shedd are remembered by individuals as having labored here.

Among the leading workers of the denomination in town were John and Simon Abbott, John Bacon, Preston Bassett, Lemuel Fales, Simon Hubbard, and Aaron H. Rogers. No church edifice was ever erected or attempted. Meetings were held at the Town Hall, and in private houses at Quinapoxet, Unionville, and Jefferson. A Sunday School and weekly prayer meetings and class-meetings were sustained for many years.

September 29, 1901, Rev. Alonzo Sanderson secured the Union Chapel in Jefferson which had been closed for some years, and started a Methodist Mission there. Of his fifty-two years of ministry, thirty-five years were spent in organizing and building churches.

He was active in the organization of the Leicester Methodist Church, and Lake View and Park Avenue Churches in Worcester.

He preached at Jefferson Chapel for a time and then obtained the services of students from Boston University, the first being Rev. Oakley E. Vanslyke. Next came Rev. John E. Charlton, who remained two years, and Rev. Albert A. Felch served one year. Rev. Ralph



A. Ward came in the spring of 1905, remaining through 1906. A missionary for many years in China, Mr. Ward is now senior bishop of the Methodist Church in China.

### SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

St. Mary's Parish—In the year 1850, Rev. Father Matthew W. Gibson, parish priest of St. John's Church, in Worcester, came, at the request of the few Roman Catholics settled in the town of Holden, and said the first mass in Michael McLaughlin's house. This house is on North Main Street, the third house to the west from the junction of Park Avenue, and is now owned by Harold B. Hunt. During the years following until 1868, wherever the faithful could be gathered together, whether in private houses, or in the hall at Eagleville, or in the hall at the center of the town, mass was said.

In 1867, Rev. Patrick T. O'Reilly, then pastor of St. John's in Worcester, since Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, confided to Rev. Thomas Griffin, his assistant, the care of the mission. In the same year, three acres of land, situated near the center of Holden, were purchased, and, on a portion of the land, the construction of a church was at once begun by Rev. Father Griffin. The size of the church was about sixty by thirty feet, and the cost \$3,500. The dedication took place August 16th, 1868, Rev. Father O'Reilly officiating.

For three years this church was attended from St. John's in Worcester. In 1871, this mission of Holden was attached to West Boylston, where Rev. Anthony J. Derbuel was pastor. In 1874, when the parish of the



Immaculate Conception was formed, Holden became a part of this parish, and for ten years was under the care of Rev. Robert Walsh. During the administration of this priest the church was twice enlarged.

In 1884 the few Catholics of 1850 had become numerous enough to support a priest of their own, and accordingly Holden was made a parish, and given for its first Pastor, Rev. James F. McCloskey. During his stay of two years a parochial residence adjoining the church was purchased. The church itself was repaired and frescoed.

Rev. Father McCloskey was succeeded by Rev. Thomas F. Joyce. While making preparations for still further improvements in the church property, he was taken suddenly ill, after a long, cold drive to attend a dying man, and died January 1st, 1888. He was buried in the central lot of the cemetery. It should be stated that he is the first clergyman in the history of the town who has died in active service.

In January, 1888, Rev. John D. McGann was appointed to the care of the parish. Finding that the old church on account of its position did not accommodate the majority of the parishioners, a new site for a church, comprising some three acres of land, upon which was also a house well fitted for a parochial residence, was purchased at Jefferson in the fall of 1889 at a cost of \$5,000. Repairs were made and grading was done at a cost of about \$2,000. On April 5th, 1890, the cellar of the new church was begun, and the edifice was completed in June, 1891.

The church when built had a seating capacity of about five hundred. It is pleasing in design, being in style an adaption of a Roman basilica. The architect







TROWEL CLUB



was Mr. Stephen C. Earle of Worcester. Waldo E. Austin, of Holden, was the builder. Thomas Hennessey did the grading and the mason work.

The cost of the building, with all its furnishings, was \$16,000. The large transept windows were the gifts of the men and women of the parish.

The consecration took place June 28th, 1891. Splendid weather favored the ceremony, which was largely attended by many who were not members of the Church.

The services began at 10:30 o'clock with the usual solemn consecration dedicatory exercises, the bishop and assisting clergy marching in solemn procession around the exterior of the building, reciting prayers, and sprinkling holy water, followed by solemn high mass. This was sung by the following clergymen: Celebrant, Rev. Michael A. O'Kane, S. J., President of Holy Cross College; sub-deacon, Rev. Eugene F. Brosnahan of St. Ann's; master of ceremonies, Rev. John Redican of Cordaville.

The music of the mass was especially fine, members of St. Ann's, St. Stephen's and Immaculate Conception choirs assisting the local choir.

The sermon of the day was preached by Very Rev. John J. Power, D. D., V. G., of St. Paul's, Worcester. Father Power spoke in substance as follows:

"I congratulate you on this auspicious occasion which marks the success of your undertaking, the completion of your beautiful church. You have reason to be proud of such an edifice. Your pastor also, who has labored so diligently to bring this work to a successful issue, has reason to feel proud, and I congratulate him on what he has accomplished. But now that the worry,

the labor, the sacrifice involved in the erection of this edifice are happily passed, the question properly arises, what is the motive that impelled you to undergo them? Why have you built this church? You will answer, to advance the glory of God, to erect a temple to the Most High, from which sacrifice, praise and prayer shall ascend as pleasing incense before His throne.

“But how do you know that your action is pleasing to God? How do you know that the faith which inspires your action is divine? For, remember, it is not enough for us to know that as children of Catholic parents we were born into the Church. We must have reason for the faith that is in us. We must demonstrate our claim to the possession of God’s revelation. God requires of us the homage of the mind and soul as well as of the heart. That our faith may be acceptable to Him it must be based upon our intelligent conception of its requirements. Without this intelligence the practice of our religion would be merely routine.

“After all, then, it is not so much important that you build a church of stone or wood, ornamented with the work of a sculptor or the architect, as it is that you make yourselves the temples of the Holy Ghost, adorned with those virtues pleasing to the Almighty. You are the living material of God’s Church. You are the Church of God.

“Be then, Catholics not in name merely, but in fact and deed. Be sincere, be honest, be consistent in the profession of your faith. Let not your lives bring scandal on your religion.”

Father Power then urged the study and practice of true religion. He counselled all families to have in



their homes the Catechism, the Bible, and the works of Thomas A. O'Kempis.

At the post communion, Rt. Rev. Bishop O'Reilly made a brief address of congratulation to the parishioners on the acquisition of their new and handsome church, contrasting the small beginnings, as he remembered them from his early visits, with what he saw then.

The church and parish were greatly prospered during the pastorate of Father McGann, who is now pastor of Saint Paul's Church in Worcester where he is loved and respected by all classes and religious denominations.

The next pastor, Rev. John F. Lee, served actively in civic as well as ecclesiastical affairs until his death in March 1913.

Next came Rev. James M. Prendergast, who enjoyed the distinction of being pastor of the parish in which he was born, and under his leadership it reached its greatest development. He died April 1, 1927, and was succeeded by Rev. Thomas H. McNamara who was appointed pastor in August 1927.

A fact of great interest is the number of young men born in the parish who have been ordained to the priesthood and have gone out to serve various parishes. They are as follows:

Rev. M. Charles Carey.

Rev. Patrick M. Doyle.

Rev. Daniel Hennessey.

Rev. John Murphy.

Rev. Albert Rivers.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

FEB 26 1952

45449

At present Saint Mary's Church serves the town of Holden, and mass is said in Princeton during the summer months.

For a number of years the priests of Saint Mary's attended the church in Rutland, until three years ago it became a separate parish, Saint Patrick's, with a resident pastor.

### JEFFERSON CHAPEL

A chapel was built at Jefferson in 1884, for the convenience of those living in the vicinity, at a cost of not less than \$1,200. It was dedicated January 5, 1885, Rev. George S. Dodge preaching on the occasion. It was controlled by a society organized under the name of "The Union Evangelical Society."

### SWEDISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

"The first record of church services held among the Swedish people of Chaffins dates back to 1887. Rev. Eric Ostergren, in the service of the Massachusetts Home Missionary Society, was instrumental in bringing preaching services to the people. The first service was held in the home of Mr. Jernberg in the neighborhood of the old Chaffins school house.

"In the same year Sunday School sessions were begun under the leadership of Alfred Bergman.

"The first organized church work began in 1892 with the formation of 'The Swedish Christian Workers Association of Chaffins, Holden,' whose slogan was: 'To foster good-will and promote the cause of Christ in the community.'



"The following people were on the committee: Otto Johnson, Carl Bengston, Lars Anderson, Andrew Arvidson, Charley Olof Olson, Frank Bergmark, Carl Nordling, Gustav Carlson, Otto F. Anderson and Lorentz Johnson.

"In 1894 plans were made for the building of a chapel. This was completed, and dedication services were held on the first Sunday in September, 1895, with preaching by visiting pastors."

This organization was dissolved in 1902, and the present Congregational Church was organized.

Rev. A. L. Anderson from Orange, Mass., assisted in drawing up by-laws and in other matters regarding its organization.

The first pastor, Mr. John G. Nelson, a student at the University of Chicago, served until 1907. During the summer months services were conducted by Rev. A. Hollis. During 1913 A. E. Andre, a home missionary, preached at the church. During the following years Rev. A. L. Anderson of Worcester frequently held services there on Sunday afternoons.

Rev. John Quist was pastor from 1918 to 1922. In 1923 Rev. O. G. Norseen was called and served the church until March 1932.

In the summer of 1932 Rev. David Carlson, a graduate of North Park College Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, took charge, serving at the same time as pastor of two Worcester churches. He remained until December 1936. Rev. Joel Carlson served for a few months, until the present pastor, Rev. Hjalmer O. Peterson, took up the work in October 1937. Mr. Peterson was graduated from North Park College Seminary in

1933, and served churches two years each in Michigan and Minnesota before coming to Holden.

The church membership now numbers 63 and 57 are enrolled in the Sunday School.

An active group of organizations assist in all phases of the church work, which has progressed favorably since its organization.

In May 1941 Rev. Mr. Peterson tendered his resignation, and Raymond Molander, of Rockford, Illinois, a student at North Park College Seminary in Chicago, was called to serve as pastor for one year.

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

This church on Shrewsbury Street, Chaffins, organized August 29, 1928, is under the sponsorship of the Board of Home Missions of the Augustana Synod.

The first pastor, Rev. A. J. Lawson, served the parish for twelve years, his resignation becoming effective January 1, 1940. From that time Rev. Theodore Palmer, pastor of Greendale Lutheran Church, acted as Vice-Pastor until the church called to the pastorate Rev. Carl C. Bostrom, who began his duties July 13, 1941.

Rev. Mr. Bostrom was graduated from Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey, and Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois. He was ordained June 9, 1918.

For the last ten years, Rev. Mr. Bostrom has served the Lutheran Church in Braddock, Pennsylvania, and previously held pastorates at Port Richmond, Staten Island, New York.



## MISSIONARIES

The following have gone out from Holden to serve in the mission fields:

Dea. Isaac Fisk went out in 1819 as a lay missionary among the Choctaw Indians. He is buried in Grove Cemetery.

Mrs. Isabella G. Davis Clarke labored at Philipopolis, Turkey, from 1850 to 1870, then at Samokov, Bulgaria.

In 1838 Mrs. Myra Fairbanks Eells went to the Pacific Coast as a missionary among the Spokane Indians, where she remained for ten years. "It took nearly six months to make the trip, most of the time on horseback, —only two white women had made the journey."

Edward Bailey went in 1836 to serve as a teacher in the Sandwich Islands.

Samuel C. Damon, D. D., sailed March 10, 1842, from New York for Honolulu, where he spent his life as chaplain of the American Seaman's Friend Society.

Mrs. Eliza Ann Abbott Goddard reached Siam in 1840, and later was missionary in Ningpo, China.

Mrs. Abigail P. Davis Goodell, a granddaughter of the first pastor of the town, labored in Turkey until 1865, when failing health necessitated her return to her native land.

Mrs. Hannah Davis Grout was appointed to the Zulu mission in South Africa in 1834, but died before reaching her destination.

Mrs. Charlotte Bailey Grout sailed for South Africa in 1840 and in 1870 returned to this country to make her home here.

Rev. Samuel W. Hamblen went as missionary to Japan in 1889.

Miss Martha Perry, daughter of Deacon Cyrus Perry, taught for a time in the South in one of the schools of the American Missionary Association.

From 1903-1906 Miss Emily Babb was engaged in social settlement work in Wailuku, Honolulu.

In 1923 Mrs. Laura Paine Bentley went to Montana with her husband, an appointed missionary at the Crow Indian Reservation, and their labors in that field have continued until the present time.

Mrs. Dorothy Miles MacLeod went out to North China in 1929 with her husband, Rev. Dr. Alexander N. MacLeod, appointed teacher in North China Theological Seminary in Tenghsien, Shantung, China.

They have since returned for brief furloughs.

In 1938 Barbara Warren, a daughter of Holden, and her husband, Clarence F. McCall, Jr., began work in the home mission churches of Montana, where they continue to serve.

Rev. and Mrs. Gifford H. Towle were commissioned on October 8, 1939, in Southampton, Mass., to rural evangelistic work in India under the American Board. Mr. Towle's boyhood was passed in Holden.



## *Chapter IV*

# Schools

Since the earliest days of its history, Holden has been keenly interested in the progress and betterment of its school system.

At the first business meeting of the town, it was "voted to have a writing and reading school," and commencing on September 1, 1741, a school was maintained for three months.

These schools were kept in private homes.

In 1752, a school was kept for three months at Mr. Joseph Hubbard's house, another the same year, at Lieut. Cyprian Steven's house.

During 1753 they were kept in other parts of the town—three months at the centre, three months at Jonathan Lovell's house and three months at Lieut. Richard Flagg's house.

In 1753 the town appropriated twelve pounds for the schools, which was increased each year as the town grew.

In 1724, 1753 and 1769 the proprietors† laid out certain tracts of land in town for school uses. Later as these were exchanged or sold, the proceeds amounted to \$3,366.66.

The town voted to hold the same and apply the income for the use of town schools.

Hence—there is appropriated for schools at each annual Town Meeting the sum of \$202.00 as "interest on the school fund."

In the first half century the district system was introduced though the Selectmen were authorized to en-

---

† Proprietors' Books, Vol. 1, Pages 3, 4.

gage school-masters, the town by vote May 22, 1772, having refused to "grant any of the School Money to a woman school."

The districts of those days bore the name of "squadrons."

In 1838 a special committee redivided the town into twelve districts, which continued until the system was abolished in 1869, by act of Legislature, but for a time the town continued to choose twelve men, one to represent each of the old districts.

A "select or High School" was maintained for many years, the teacher usually receiving the tuition fees, and paying his own expenses. The number of pupils averaged from 30 to 50. These schools were kept each fall for a period of eleven or twelve weeks, beginning about the first week of September.

Dr. Damon lists the teachers as follows:

- 1828—Edward P. Humphrey.
- 1829—David Tappan Lane.
- 1830—Philander O. Powers.
- 1831—Aldin Grout.
- 1832—Philander O. Powers.
- 1833—William Howe.
- 1834—Merrill Richardson.
- 1835—Samuel C. Damon.
- 1836—Miss Martha Paine.
- 1837—Rufus Taylor.
- 1838—Rufus Taylor.
- 1839—Sabin McKinney.
- 1840—George B. Rowell.

In 1868 Miss Nancy Perry taught the last term of the "select schools."



The first committee to visit the schools was chosen at the annual town meeting in 1825. Thereafter it became a regular institution.

In 1841 \$800 was appropriated for schools.

The first committee consisted of Rev. Horatio Bardwell, Rev. John Walker, Col. Samuel Damon, George Estabrook, M. D., and Dennis Davis, Esq. It was the usual custom to put the pastors of the church at the head of this committee and Dr. Paine served in this office for more than thirty years.

In 1869 the town purchased the school houses from the districts at their value as appraised by men out of town, the total cost to the town being \$8,762.

In 1877 the school committee was reduced to three members.

In 1872, the town authorized the committee to elect a Superintendent of Schools, and William C. Metcalf was chosen and served that year.

The next year James T. Rood, M. D., filled the office, Clifford W. Stickney, M. D., was chosen in 1883, and served for three years.

In 1890, Holden united with Leicester to take advantage of the new law of the state, and secured Charles E. Stevens to give his whole time to the schools of the two towns. He served until June, 1892.

Since that time the office has been held by the following persons:

Benjamin F. Robinson, 1892-1893; Charles A. Merrill, 1893-1894; Etta L. Chapman, 1894-1899; Robert T. Keenan, 1899.

In July, 1900 the present school union of Holden, Oakham, Paxton, and Rutland was formed, and Herbert J. Jones was chosen superintendent to serve the

four towns. Mr. Jones served until 1908, and since that time the following have been elected to the office:

Charles L. Randall, 1908-1914.

Robert I. Bramhall, 1914-1917.

James R. Childs, 1917- .

Gradually, the real need for a High School began to be felt. The school committee mentioned this in their report in 1879.

"The spirit of aspiration pervading our schools, the increasing number of good scholars in town, and the fact that there have just closed a number of successful private schools, are among the arguments in favor of a higher grade than we now have."

In their annual report for the year ending March 1, 1880, the school committee recommended the establishment of a High School, and the town accordingly authorized it.

School house No. 1, in the center was repaired and made ready to be used for that purpose.

The school was opened in the spring of 1880 with Miss Cornelia M. Thurston as principal for one term.

In September, 1880, Mr. Alonzo K. Learned began his duties as principal, which position he held for thirty years, giving himself whole heartedly to his great task of character building.

He also manifested his keen interest in the town by sharing in the responsibility of organizations, making for the betterment of the town and its people.

The report of the school committee for the year 1880-81 states that the town appropriated \$4,000 for its schools that year.

The first class to graduate from the High School was in 1884, when seven pupils received diplomas.



They were: Harry C. Bascom, Nellie M. Bascom, Leila S. Boyden, Edith H. Davis, Mary F. McLaughlin, Sadie I. Packard, Alice E. Stone.

With increased yearly enrollment the need of larger quarters was felt, and in September, 1888, the High School was removed to the rooms which had been prepared for its occupancy on the second floor of the beautiful new Damon Memorial Building.

That year the number of pupils enrolled was 37.

June 6, 1910, the school committee received the resignation of Mr. Learned and a set of resolutions were at once drawn up voicing the sentiments of the committee and townspeople. One of these was, "Resolved, that the Schools of Holden and the town of Holden owe to him a debt which can hardly be estimated."

After a time the space occupied by the High School in the Damon Memorial Building became inadequate as the number of students increased, year by year, and in 1923 the town appointed a committee to investigate in regard to additional High School accommodations.

February 2, 1925, the town voted to erect a new High School and voted that the committee on accommodations be continued as a building committee. The building committee was as follows: William S. Piper, Chairman, Nason H. Arnold, George C. Bond, Frank E. Cook, Dennis W. Harrington, Charlie B. Jordan, Aaron L. Potter.

The "Rogers Lot" was acquired and used in addition to the site of the old Grammar School thus giving the school lot an area of about four acres.

Work on the new building was begun early in May, 1925, and it was accepted and dedicated Monday evening, June 21, 1926 with the following

Since its establishment in 1880 the following principals have served the school:

Alonzo K. Learned, 1880-1910

Herbert C. Collar, 1910-1911

Howard A. Newton, 1911-1915

Claude A. Gray, 1915-1918

Edwin A. Richardson, 1918-1925

Raleigh B. Bubar, 1925-

In 1938 two teachers, Mrs. Annie B. Delano, and Mrs. Ethel M. White, resigned, having taught in the school, sixteen and ten years respectively.

The first mention of a school house in Holden is found in the town records of the year 1752.

An article in the warrant at a town meeting held December 5th of that year was—"first to see if the Town are of the mind to Erect or Build a School-House in the Center of the Town or near the Meeting House both to Keep school in and also to accomodate the remote Inhabitants to warm at in the Intermission on ye Sabath days."

The methodical numbering of the school districts and their early names still cling to some sections of the town, others, but for the careful study and recording of early records by Town Clerk Samuel W. Armington, assisted by Miss Helen C. Johnson, might be most difficult to locate.

## NUMBER ONE

### *The Center—Margery A. Rice School*

The first building in the center was on the north side of Main Street, 136 rods west from the meeting house, and was built in 1800.





ABBOTT TAVERN







The second, built about 1824, now used as a dwelling, was at first a one room, afterwards made into a two room school house. It occupies the lot on the northwest corner of Main Street and the present high school drive. This building was long the home of Artemas D. Bascom and family, and is still owned by his daughters Mary C. and Carrie E. Bascom, who now occupy the house on the southwest corner of Main Street and Holt Road, which was built by Mr. Bascom in 1905. Carrie was a teacher in the Holden schools and Mary taught in Everett, Massachusetts. Another sister, Marion A. was assistant principal at Holden High School.

The third, built about 1854, occupied the site where the present High School now stands.

This was used until the erection of the Rice School in 1911.

The building was sold in 1924, to Dr. Frank H. Washburn, and it was eventually moved to its present location on Boyden Road, where it is now used as an office building, the first floor being used by the members of the Holden Clinic.

May 17, 1910, the town voted to acquire the "Phillips" and the "Carr" lots located on Phillips Road as a site on which to erect a four room school house, and an appropriation of \$20,000 was made for that purpose.

The building committee was Peter Carr, William J. Powers, and Emory Rogers.

The contract for building was awarded to John J. Power, of Worcester, the contract price being \$16,840. Heating contract was awarded to M. D. Holmes & Sons, Worcester, for \$2,211.

Work was begun in October, 1910 and completed August 1, 1911, and the building dedicated August 24, 1911.

The Program of Dedication was as follows:

Invocation—

Rev. John F. Lee

Music—

Apollo Quartette

Remarks—

Supt. Charles L. Randall, President of the Day

Reading of Scripture—

Rev. Simeon Spidle, Ph.D.

Music—

Apollo Quartette

Presentation of Building—

Mr. Peter Carr, Chairman, Building Committee

Addresses—

Julius E. Warren, Agent of Board of Education

Hon. Robert M. Washburn

Music—

Apollo Quartette

Dedicatory Address—

Dr. David Snedden, Commissioner of Education

Dedicatory Prayer—

Rev. Thomas E. Babb

Music—

Apollo Quartette

Benediction—

Rev. Thomas E. Babb

In 1922 a four room addition to this school was built at a cost of \$30,540.08.



In 1930 it was given the name of the Marjery A. Rice School. Miss Dagny C. Lindgren was principal from 1911 until her resignation in 1927.

In 1934 Mr. Frank J. Knowlton presented to the town the lot on the corner of Woodland and Phillips Roads adjoining the school lot, adding much to the value of the property.

## NUMBER TWO

### *The Estabrook's—Unionville*

This brick school-house in the easterly part of the town was built on land granted to the town at a very early date.

When it was closed in 1929 it was the last of the one-room school-houses.

The building was purchased by Mrs. Katharine A. Prue, and yearly re-unions were held there by fifty or more former teachers and pupils.

One of the guests at the fifth re-union was Mr. Charles Garfield of Boylston, who had attended the school fifty-two years ago.

The building was destroyed by fire in 1935.

## NUMBER THREE

### *Dr. Chenery's—Sodom—Chaffinsville—Chaffins*

Tradition states that the first school house in the east part of the town was near the "Old Bullard Place."

The next location was between Doyle and Shrewsbury Streets. In 1878 this building was sold to J. Albert Newell and a new one erected that year a short distance from the site of the old one at a cost of \$1,000.

In 1898 the building was turned one quarter way round, raised three feet, and made into a two room school.

This school house was sold to James G. Handy in 1923 when the increased population of Chaffins made a larger building necessary. This new 3 room school was built in 1923 on the west side of Holden Street, near the junction of Shrewsbury Street, at a cost of \$17,486.84. The architect was H. L. Meacham, and the builder Raffaele Zottoli.

During the summer of 1925 another room was added.

In 1930 the town purchased  $1\frac{3}{4}$  acres of land for a four room addition to the house. Ground was broken for this in October and the work was completed January 5, 1931. The contractor was James Miles & Sons.

## NUMBER FOUR

### *The Flaggs'—South Part*

This was located on the north side of Reservoir Street, between the Asnebumskit and Howard Hill Roads.

This was taken by the city of Worcester in 1890 for reservoir purposes, and the school district merged with No. 11.

## NUMBER FIVE

### *Captain Broads'—Eagleville—Brick City—Jefferson*

The first known location of this school was on the north side of what is now High Street. This two room house built in 1873, at a cost of about \$4,000 was sold to Merrick and Morse and moved away.



The next building was built about the year 1844 on the North side of Main Street between Causeway Street and Mount Pleasant Avenue. This was sold to Peter Wissell.

The next location was on the South side of Main Street, opposite Mount Pleasant Avenue, on land taken from the estate of Alfred Morse.

The four room house erected in 1885 at an expense of \$4,312.48 was destroyed by fire June 4, 1891.

The present six room building was erected in 1891-2 at a cost of \$9,438.40. In 1935 Mr. Francis Coe gave for a playground  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres of land in the rear of the school building and adjoining the school lot.

Miss Mary M. Donahue served as principal of this school from March, 1918 until her resignation in 1932.

## NUMBER SIX

### *The Chaffins—Dawson's*

On the westerly side of Salisbury Street, about a mile south of the former village of Dawson stood the one room school house built about 1847. This school was closed in 1926 and that fall the building was destroyed by fire.

Old residents mention a former school building which occupied the same site. The lot was said to have been given by Captain Jonathan Chaffin and Tilla Chaffin.

In the nineties the young people in this district organized debating and Shakespeare Clubs which flourished for some years.

In 1912 the former members of these clubs held a reunion, and these have been continued yearly to the

present time under the name of the Number Six Reunion Club. Original members now living are: Milton I. Dunn, Porter L. Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. T. Walter Howe, Charlie B. Jordan, Mrs. George A. Larkin, Mrs. Gilbert E. Moore, Miss Harriet C. Moore, Reuben H. Moore, Albert F. Newell, Alvah B. Newell, Walter P. Newell, Mrs. Frank C. Parker, Mrs. William E. Prouty, Albert F. Whitman.

#### NUMBER SEVEN

##### *The Rice's—Squantum*

In the northerly part of Holden. The first location was on a road leading to East Princeton. A new house which was built south of this on the same road was burned December 22, 1871. In 1872 it was rebuilt. In 1885 it was merged with Number Twelve. It was again re-opened and finally closed in 1918.

#### NUMBER EIGHT

##### *Capt. James Davis'—Butt End*

This was first located at the foot of a hill on a road leading from Causeway Street to Rutland. It was later moved to the intersection of this road and Causeway Street. The district was later merged with Number Five. The school closed in 1880 or 1881, and the building sold to William J. Prendergast, who moved it away.

#### NUMBER NINE

##### *Lemuel Fiske's—Ruralville—North Woods*

In the northerly part of the town. Its first location was at the foot of Estabrook Hill, at a place where



three roads meet. The second location was on Cobb Street, between Princeton and Whitney Street, near North Woods Village. It was built about 1848, and was closed in 1918. The building was sold to Thomas McCarthy who had it moved to the junction of Wachusett and Elmwood Streets, where it is now in use as a residence.

#### NUMBER TEN

##### *Capt. Manning's—New State—Springdale*

In the northeast part of town. Its first and second locations were on what was called in that district "the north road."

In 1883 it was removed to a site on Manning Street. It was closed in 1922 and was sold in 1927 to James E. Welsh.

#### NUMBER ELEVEN

##### *Jonathan Howe's—South*

In the the southwest part of town. This school had two locations on the Paxton Road, a short distance apart. The second building was erected about 1852. This school was closed in 1926 and was sold to Walter B. Starbard in 1927.

#### NUMBER TWELVE

##### *Lieut. Samuel W. Hubbard's—French Woods Quinapoxet*

In the northerly part of town, its first known location was on a bridle road which ran from the east to the west Princeton roads.

The next building built in 1881, and was in the village on Wachusett Street. This was burned in 1930.

## NUMBER THIRTEEN

*Capt. David Smith's*

In the northwest part of the town in the neighborhood of Muschopauge Street. Probably no school-house was built.

## NUMBER FOURTEEN

*Tilla Mirick's*

To the west and south of Kendall and Pine Hill reservoirs, also that part of the town which was set off to Paxton.

No school house was known to have been built.

In 1900 the town expended \$9,652.71 for schools and in 1920, \$35,085.93, and in 1940 the appropriation was \$75,300.

## ALONZO KNAPP LEARNED

Alonzo Knapp Learned, son of John Knapp and Maria Miller Learned, was born in Westminster, April 15, 1844. He attended the common schools of his native town, Westminster Academy and Nichols Academy. He learned the trade of a blacksmith. At an early age he began teaching in Westminster, and upon reaching his maturity was elected a member of the school committee and served thus until his removal from the town.

He taught in Princeton, Gardner, Rutland, and was for seven years principal of the Grammar School in Hubbardston.

In 1880 he was elected principal of the High School in Holden, and taught there for thirty years. After



his retirement he resided in Worcester until his death May 4, 1920.

It is a source of keen satisfaction to all who remember Mr. Learned, that the new High School building should be named in honor of him, whose life was so entirely devoted to the service of school and town.

Pupils coming to the High School from small school districts were awed by the spacious beauty of their new surroundings, and the dignity and wisdom of the one whom later they came to recognize as poet, scholar, teacher, friend.

After the death of his friend, Stephen C. Earle, architect, the following lines appeared in a Worcester newspaper:

STEPHEN C. EARLE

*A Tribute*

He loved the beautiful, the good the true.  
In humble mood his soul their inner shrine  
Oft sought, and felt the inspiration fine  
That animates and fires the soul anew  
To effort which her glorious past ne'er knew;  
To struggle, worthy of her birth divine;  
To bloodless victories, that will ever shine  
As stars, effulgent stars, in heaven's blue.  
In glad fidelity he daily wrought  
Utility and beauty into forms of art  
That move the emotions of the soul and heart.  
Obeyed the call his country to befriend.  
His home and loved ones precious in his thought.  
Could he have lived and toiled for purer end?

—*A. K. Learned.*

A tablet to honor the memory of Mr. Learned was unveiled June 16, 1921 at the Damon Memorial Building. The program of the exercises was as follows:

Address of Welcome, Edwin A. Richardson, principal of Holden High School; Song, "America the Beautiful," by twelve young ladies of the school; Address, "A Personal Recollection of Mr. Learned," Thomas E. Babb, Jr., '96; unveiling of the tablet, by Andrew O'Connor,† its sculptor, assisted by Miss Pauline Newell; entrusting of the tablet to the trustees of the Damon Memorial Building, by Peter Gluntz; acceptance of the trust by Waterman L. Williams, president of the board of trustees; reading of memorial of trustees, by William J. Powers, secretary of trustees.

The memorial tablet is the gift of the High School Alumni Association. Beneath the sculptured likeness of Mr. Learned are the words—

"For thirty years principal of the Holden High School.

"In grateful recognition of his devotion as instructor and in appreciation of his character, his pupils have erected this memorial."

A. D. 1921

### MARGERY A. RICE

Miss Margery A. Rice, a teacher at the Center grammar school for forty-six years, retired from active service on June 13, 1930.

---

† Mr. O'Connor, world famous sculptor, when living in Holden owned the house on the northeast corner of Bascom Parkway and Highland Street, now the home of Joseph T. D. Henley.



Miss Rice, daughter of Austin C. and Margery A. (Boyden) Rice, natives of Holden, was born in Blissfield, Michigan, and was graduated from Adrian College in Ohio.

After teaching a short time in the west she returned to Holden, where, for forty-six years, she was the much beloved teacher of the lower grades in the Center School, and upon her retirement in June 1930, friends and former pupils gathered in the room so filled with associations of other years, and presented her with a purse of gold and many beautiful flowers, and caused to be placed in the school building a bronze tablet bearing the inscription, "This building is named the Margery A. Rice School in grateful appreciation of 46 years of devoted service in the Holden schools. Miss Rice died in Holden, September 3, 1933.

## DAMON MEMORIAL AND LIBRARY

When the first High School was opened in the building called "School House No. 1," or "Center School," it was intended to be used only as a temporary location, and each year the need was increasingly felt for larger quarters and better equipment.

At a town meeting in November, 1886, the town appointed a committee, to investigate ways and means by which this end might be accomplished.

The problem had a most happy solution through the generosity of a former teacher in that same "Center School," Mr. Samuel C. Gale and his wife Susan (Damon) Gale.

At the annual town meeting, March 21, 1887 the following letter was read:

“Minneapolis, March 15, 1887.

Major Isaac Damon,

Holden, Mass.

Dear Sir:

“I have delayed sending to you my final decision in the matter of the public building to be erected on the Chenery lot, until I could look up the subject thoroughly. In accordance with your suggestion, your High School Principal has written a full and satisfactory letter touching the needs of the High School.

“I am now able to say, that, unless prevented by some misfortune, I shall commence the present season to erect upon the Chenery lot a building adapted to both High School and Library purposes. I design to have the walls completed and the roof on before next winter, and have the same fully completed ready for occupancy as early as September, 1888.

“This building and ground, together with some books, which we hope to add, my wife and I will present to the Town of Holden as a free gift, subject to some simple and reasonable conditions as to care and support of the structure and its equipment on the part of the town.

I write this letter now, that the people of the town may have assurance that both School and Library accommodations will be provided for without any steps being taken by the town at its coming meeting.

*Yours very Sincerely,*

SAMUEL C. GALE”



The following resolutions were immediately adopted by a rising vote of the town:

“Resolved: That our sincere thanks are hereby tendered Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Gale, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, for their very generous proposal, the fulfillment of which will be a perpetual memorial of their generosity and thoughtfulness.”

“Resolved: That a copy of these Resolutions be sent Mr. and Mrs. Gale, and that they be entered upon the records of the town.”

Construction of the building began at once under the supervision of the architect Mr. Stephen C. Earle, of Worcester, and it was completed in August, 1888, at a cost of more than forty-five thousand dollars.

A fact which endears it to townspeople is that all stone used in its construction was taken from the Holden quarry, which was located “on the old Kendall place,” later the home of John B. Dodd.

The uncut brown sandstone used for sills, arches and some other parts was brought from Longmeadow.

The south wall has a large sculptured panel, picturing the enlightening influence of education, as shown by a figure bearing in one hand a flaming torch and in the other an open book, with the inscription, “Let there be light,” and “Character is destiny.”

This panel, five by eight feet, was designed and executed by Evans & Toombs, of Boston.

In ground plan the building is nearly square. On the Northeast corner is the Howard clock and the bell tower which rises to a height of sixty-four feet. The bell, whose clear notes could be heard by pupils in nearly all parts of the town, was selected by Mr. Gale himself.

Over the two arched entrances leading from the porch are cut, respectively, the words "School" and "Library."

Beautiful fireplaces adorn the main school room and the reading room of the library.

The interior is finished in natural oak. The carpenter work was done by Emory Rogers, who had also general charge of the entire work.

The stone work was done by Thomas Hennessey, the brick work and plastering by Peter Carr, and the walls, and ceilings were tinted by Daniel Boyden.

Mr. Gale desired as far as possible to have all material and labor for the building derived from the town of Holden.

In design and construction it is one of the choicest in the county.

The Presentation and Dedication service program of the Damon Memorial took place August 29, 1888 in the Congregational Church which was filled with townspeople and many visitors from neighboring towns.

After a selection by the Marlboro Brass Band, which furnished the music for the day, Rev. William G. Tuttle offered prayer. Mr. Alonzo K. Learned, the President of the Day, then gave the following Address of Welcome:

"Ladies and Gentlemen:—This morning, so bright and beautiful, is indicative of the welcome we extend to each. We are glad that whether living by the sea, in the city, by the mountains, or on the distant prairie, a common impulse has moved so many of the sons and daughters of Holden to return and join in the festivities of the day—the day of the slowly rolling century in the history of the town. The familiar paths, the old



homestead and the school house, the village green, this old church though mute, unite with us in cordial salutation. Whether participating in the exercises of the day, meeting with friends, renewing old associations, treading with careful step the place—

“Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap,” or standing by the memorial raised to the memory of parents, brother, or sister,—may all the hours be filled with pleasure, benediction, and blessing to each of you.

“Welcome to those men and women, distinguished in the walks of life, who are with us today. We feel that the occasion is in unison with the efforts you are putting forth to lift man.

“‘To a purer air and a broader view.’ May the breath of the hills, the warmth of our hospitality, the spirit pervading these exercises, the bright outlook which generous thought and generous hands have opened to the people of this town, cheer and strengthen you.

“Cordial greeting to the honored official representative of the city of Worcester, to the members of bench and bar, to her accomplished librarian, to her teachers, eminent for learning and ability, to her honored business men, to all her citizens, whose united life constitutes the purity of the life of the ‘Heart of the Commonwealth.’

“To the citizens of adjoining towns, who in response to invitation, or who, moved by neighborly feeling, are present to offer congratulations, we extend the hand of welcome.

“Welcome one and all to this historic ground, given by the Hon. John Hancock to the early settlers for a public common, and a site for a church, where for

many generations, men, in the exercise of the rights of free-men, have met in times of peace and prosperity, in times of danger and alarm, to transact business for the common welfare, or to discern from a common consideration the path of duty and of honor.

“Welcome to this historic and hallowed church, within whose walls the generations of the past have met, feeling a common need, humbly praying for a common blessing, and finding it, ‘none other than the house of God and the gate of heaven.’

“At a town meeting, the second in the history of the town, held May 19th, 1741, the legal voters first passed the following vote:

“‘Voted to have the gospel preached in town.’ The fourth vote of that meeting was: ‘Voted to have a reading and writing school.’

“In a happy accordance with the spirit animating those men, in happy accord with all that noble men have planned for the public welfare in

‘Yonder painted shingly town-house,’  
in happy accord with the purest aspirations of those who have trod

‘These quiet aisles of prayer,’  
is the occasion which has assembled us today.

“Yonder ‘Memorial Building’ is but the completion of the structure, the foundations of which the men of Holden laid in 1741. It is the tribute which persons reared and educated in New England gladly offer to the wisdom of the fathers in establishing a system of free public schools for the education of the children of a free republic.

“That we may more fully understand the plans and purposes of the donors, the beauty and utility of the









HANCOCK COMMON



structure, and learn what workmen have wrought from foundation to turret stone, I present to you the architect, Mr. Stephen C. Earle, of Worcester."

Mr. Earle said:

"One bright March day of last year found me, at the request of him whose wisdom and generosity makes the occasion for this glad gathering, viewing the site proposed for a building designed to meet the present needs of this old town of Holden in two important particulars, viz., first, a public library, and second, better accommodations for the high school. The glistening, crusted snow covered the whole landscape, but then, as now, the fitness of the site selected was apparent. There was the beautiful and ample lot, with its graceful, central knoll, where the half filled-cellar told of a home of the past, with a location all that could be desired.

"In the middle of the village, only a stone's throw from Main Street, nearly opposite the old Damon mansion, directly adjoining the Common, the Damon Memorial becomes one among the group of the town's public buildings. In the first instructions to the architect was the statement that the building was to be of brick or stone, preferably the latter, a preference on the part of a client which is always heartily seconded by the architect. Some one has said that a brick building, however large, cannot be made grand or imposing. Without arguing the point, it will at once be conceded that even a small building of stone has a certain dignity, due to the materials, whatever the treatment of it. In this building the stone has an added value, a sentimental one at least, from its being in-

digenous, coming from the granite quarry of John P. Dodd, on one of the Holden hills, about a mile distant.

"You may judge of the material the value of the generous outlay of those benefactors who have here built a permanent home for your library and school, but few can have an idea of the intense and constant interest, the loving thought and care with which they, from their distant home, have inspired and watched every detail of design and construction. My task has been a pleasant one, working out with such success as I might their high ideals.

"Though 'westward the star of empire takes its way,' and with it many of the brightest and best among us, let us be thankful that the heart strings still bind them in love to their old eastern homes."

Mr. Learned then introduced Mr. Gale in the following words:

"It is said that Anaxagoras, beholding the Mausoleum erected by Artemisia, Queen of Caria, to her deceased husband, Mausolus, which was constructed of the most costly marbles and decorated in the highest style of Grecian art, exclaimed, 'How much money is changed into stone!' From the statement of Mr. Earle, confirmed by our own observation and knowledge, we are ready, when viewing the massive proportions, completeness, and elegance of the Memorial, to exclaim, 'How much money is changed into wood and stone!' Artemisia, in erecting the Mausoleum, would enshrine and perpetuate the memory of her husband, thus exhibiting one of the most beautiful sentiments of the human heart. Our friends, animated by the same sentiment, would perpetuate the name of a family, honorably identified not only with the history of the town,



the county, the state, and the nation, but also with the progress of civilization and Christianity in other lands and the islands of the distant seas, by linking it with the 'living present' and the long future. The 'Memorial,' while casting its loving shadow over the ancestral roof, through whose garden gate five generations have passed, welcomes to its lofty halls the youth of the present and future generations and places in the hand of each 'a good book, the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up for a purpose of life beyond life.' "

Mr. Gale was greeted with hearty applause, and made the following Presentation Address:

"Mr. President and Friends: Thirty-four years ago I came to this village to teach the district school. The frame school-house still standing, and in use, was then new, and was a subject of much interest and pride. The only instruction I received from the school committee as to the management of the school was that I should keep the scholars from marking and scratching the new school-house. I entirely neglected my duty in this respect. At the end of the winter, marks and scratches were very abundant; and I knew it was all my fault, for no school-master ever had better boys and girls. After thinking over my offense for thirty-four years I concluded the only suitable recompense I could make was to give the town a new school-house, which I have accordingly done. I do not say, however, there were no other considerations and more serious, for the enterprise. Here my wife was born and reared; and this, in the opinion of at least her husband, entitles the place to monumental honors. May I also mention especially her brother, the late Dr. Samuel C.

Damon, a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii Islands, a great-hearted and broad-minded man, with a deep affection for his native town. He it was who first suggested to me the idea of aiding to establish here a public library. It is in memory of him, and of her other kinspeople and other friends dear to us both, whose homes have been here in this and other generations, that we have sought to do this town some good thing, so important and permanent that the inhabitants will always kindly remember us.

“Mr. President, I hold in my hands, and now deliver, title papers conveying to the town of Holden, from my wife and myself, the new Library and High School Building and grounds. The conveyance is made in trust and upon the condition that the town shall, under the law of Massachusetts, organize a Board of Trustees to manage the estate and library; that the town keep the building in repair and continue the insurance of \$10,000 already placed upon it, with premium paid for five years; that the library be also kept insured and that both the building and library shall be restored in case of destruction or impairment; that the grounds shall be kept neat and tasteful order, appropriately adorned with flowers; that the town shall maintain a Free Public Library and Reading-room in the building and shall appropriate and expend annually, of its own money, not less than \$200 for the purchase of new works for the library; that the school held in the building shall always be free to the inhabitants of Holden, and shall be at least equal to a High School in grade. I trust these conditions will not seem unreasonable or burdensome. They certainly have been made after much thought, solely to secure



to the public the greatest benefit possible from this undertaking.

“At the last, friends, we part with this estate, so interesting has it grown to be with us, with something like reluctance—a glad reluctance—as parting with a daughter at the marriage alter. And this is really a nuptial day. This gift is the bride; and she carries with herself to this people our benediction. There is a proverb of three Latin words, ‘Qui Legit Regit,’ ‘He who reads is king.’ Then let this be your palace royal. Thither, through many, many years, through summer bloom and winter gloom, may the feet of your children turn as to a garden of entertainments. For your young men and young women, I pray you make this the happy wholesome greeting place, till books shall interest them and lure them to stay. For the old when they come, lead them to the sunniest spot, the easiest chair, and show them the open page. But most of all, for those earnest ones among you, especially if they be the poor, who hunger and thirst for books and the better things which books lead up to, keep always the door wide open, the feast spread and the lights burning—all this, till these rugged stones shall crumble and be as dust.”

After the applause which followed Mr. Gale’s address had died away, Mr. Charles E. Parker, acting as chairman of the board of selectmen, responded for the town in the following Address of Acceptance:

“To Mr. and Mrs. Gale, whose benefaction calls us together, I desire to say that I accept these deeds on behalf of the town. On behalf of the town I thank you. The conditions and requirements of the deed are reasonable and satisfactory, and I know I can

promise a ready and hearty acceptance. The library, containing, as it does, the sum and substance of the life work of many students of the past, and the reading room, with its home-like comforts, supplied with papers and magazines filled with the best of the thoughts of writers of today, are factors of education of immense advantage to the student at school and the community at large.

“This object lesson of beauty! Who can measure its influence for good? In behalf of the students who shall be inspired by the harmony and beauty to a higher ambition and greater effort, I thank you. Our fathers builded better than they knew when, in the early history of this country, beside the church they planted the school house, and from time to time perfected the common school system. We all know it to be the corner stone foundation of the best government on the face of the earth. With all due reverence, I would acknowledge a higher power, and invoke its aid to paralyze the hand that would take one stone from the foundation of our school system. It shall be maintained and with it shall be kept green the memory of those who make education attractive. If he who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before is a public benefactor, how much more he, who, adding to the facilities of acquiring knowledge, makes men wiser and better.”

At the conclusion of his address of acceptance, Mr. Parker called upon the audience to thank Mr. and Mrs. Gale for their gift, and all unanimously arose. The Prayer of Dedication was then offered by Rev. David F. Estes. Mr. Learned then introduced the orator of the day, Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson,



as being "a resident of Cambridge and of Holden."† Col. Higginson spoke in part as follows:

"Fergusson, in his *History of Architecture*, says that 'wherever we see any work of man truly worthy of admiration, we may be quite sure that the credit of it is not due to an individual, but to thousands working together through a long series of years.' He is speaking of the great cathedrals of Europe, which are undoubtedly the greatest visible work of man, when we consider both size and beauty; which were all built practically within a single century, the thirteenth, and nearly all, in France at least, within the sixty years from 1180 to 1240. When the traveler approaches one of these great buildings he has in respect the same impression produced on many visitors by the building we dedicate today. The cathedral dwarfs everything around it, and seems, at first sight, almost disproportionate, both in size and dignity. In going toward Cologne, for instance, or York Minster, you are impressed with the fact that, instead of drawing near to a town, you are approaching a cathedral. The building looms in the distance, large, stately, solid, glittering in the light or dim with the shade, very much as in crossing Kansas and approaching Colorado, you see Pike's Peak on the one hand, and the Spanish Peaks on the other, the far off prediction of wonders yet to be revealed. When you reach those mountains, you find towns already encamped around their feet, and so when you reach York or Cologne, you find the town encamped around the feet of the cathedral. Even so, fifty years hence, will the village of Holden be seen clustered around these solid walls, which enshrine its

---

† Col. Higginson was for part three years a resident of Holden.

library and its high school? It will doubtless affect the other buildings to be hereafter erected in the town; they will be more solid, tasteful, appropriate, for having this building in their midst; but the Damon Memorial will be the center of the town, as it should be, for it will be the source and center of its intellectual life.

“During the two summers while I have watched this building rise, I have been constantly struck with the fact, that it represents the same great popular impulse in the nineteenth century that the cathedral represented in the thirteenth. The ancient cathedral and the modern town library alike stand for the spirit of their age. Now, as then, a single benefactor often gives the whole financial means for the great work; we meet today to express gratitude to such a doner; but he himself would be the first to admit that he represents the great impulse of enlightenment, which is providing every town in Massachusetts with free libraries. In a wholly illiterate community such an enterprise would be wasted, and the donor of this building was working unconsciously for it just as much when he taught one of your schools in his youth, as when, in his prosperous maturity, he feeds the demand he helped to create. And every one, who, in this town, or elsewhere, has ever worked for public school or library, has been one of the thousand, who, as Fergusson said, have helped to prepare the way of every great work of man. As I have watched this building go up, it has seemed to me to rise,—as was said, by a mediaeval writer, of the cathedrals—‘built of the money of the rich and the prayers of the poor.’ Men of almost every occupation in this town have been employed about this building,



and have worked, as they did in the middle ages, with a zeal, not measured by the day's wages. Those who did not work with their hands have watched the laying of every stone, and have contributed without charge, sympathy enough to encourage any contractor, as well as good advice enough seriously to embarrass him. I am confident that no European cathedral ever had a larger share of discussion and counsel to the square inch than the Damon Memorial; and it may be said of it, as of the great mediaeval cathedrals, that it has been 'built of the money of the rich and the prayers of the poor.'

"And it must always be kept in view that this is but one contribution to that vast movement which is covering our state with public libraries, as Europe was covered with cathedrals.

"One of the favorite heroes of that Eloquent man, (Mr. George William Curtis), I remember, is Sir Philip Sidney, and it is Sir Philip Sidney who says in his 'Defense of Poesy' that 'the ending end of all knowledge is virtuous action.' Action is higher even than thought. On this principle there have been two great days in the history of Holden within my memory. One was the day, (April 20th, 1861), when the summons went out from the state house calling upon the Holden Rifles to go, at a few hours notice, to the defense of Washington; and they went. That was Holden's greatest day; this is the next; and it is pleasant to think that among those who worked upon this building were more than one of those who rallied at their country's call. Yes, action is higher than thought; deeds than words. The poet, Keats, the most ideal of all poets, says in one of his letters that 'fine

thinking is, next to fine doing, the top thing of the universe.' It is the mission of a school-house and a library to bring about not merely fine thinking but fine doing.

"I should like to see around the walls of the Holden Free Library some such inscription as used to delight me in boyhood, on the handbills of an old bookstore I used to frequent in Boston; 'Here you may range the world with the magic of a book, and cheat expectation and solitude of their weary moments.' And there will surely remain in that hall, with or without a portrait, the memory of the benefactor—may I not say of the two wedded benefactors,—through whom its pleasures and its advantages have been provided for coming generations of those whom they have never seen."

After an hour spend in social greetings and in the examination of the edifice, a procession formed under the direction of Chief Marshal Edward W. Merrick, and marched to the large dining tent, which had been spread on the Damon grounds, nearly opposite the Memorial building. Dinner was served to about six hundred. After the conclusion of the dinner, Mr. Learned introduced Hon. Henry W. Warren as Toastmaster. He presented as the first sentiment, "The Commonwealth of Massachusetts," to which Hon. George B. Loring of Salem, Minister of the United States to Portugal, responded at length. "The City of Worcester," was spoken for by Hon. Samuel Winslow, Mayor of the city. Nathan Allen, M.D., of Lowell then presented a sketch of the life-work and character of Samuel C. Damon, D. D.; Mr. Samuel S. Green, of Worcester Public Library, spoke to the sentiment, "The Library, Garnered Wisdom of Centuries." A poem entitled "New England Granite" was read by



Mr. Solon P. Davis, of Hartford, and Albert P. Marble, Ph.D., Hon. P. Emory Aldrich, Gen. Augustus B. R. Sprague, of Worcester, and Henry A. Stimpson, D. D., of St. Louis, a former pastor of Mrs. Gale, also made brief addresses. The following Ode by Mrs. Georgia Allen Peck was sung by the entire assemblage:

“Gazing on this massive splendor,  
Stately, changeless, fair to view,  
Fain our grateful song would render,  
Gracious donors, homage due.  
Let glad voices  
Sound the note of praise anew.

Here, in youth's unsullied morning,  
Eager for life's golden ore,  
Death to Sloth, and folly scorning,  
Lo, at wisdom's mystic door,  
Youth and maiden  
Glad shall garner priceless lore.

Here the treasure of all ages,  
Poet's dream, and fancy's flight,  
Science, art and wealth of sages  
In grand symphony unite.  
God hath spoken—  
Echo all, let there be light!

Onward points the tireless finger;  
Progress knows nor halt nor stay,  
Suns shall in their orbit linger,  
Time's swift sands their course delay,  
Ere her footsteps  
Falter in their upward way.

Spirits thrilled and hearts o'erflowing,  
Giver of all good, to thee  
Each rich gift of thy bestowing  
Consecrated here shall be;  
Now and ever,  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee!"

At a legal town meeting, held September 26th, 1888, the acceptance of the Damon Memorial upon the conditions and requirements contained in the deed of gift, was formally voted. The following expression of thanks was also adopted:

"The town of Holden in town meeting assembled formally accepts the 'Damon Memorial' Library and High School Building, and the books presented by Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Gale of Minneapolis, and desires at the same time publicly to express and place on record its appreciation of the good-will, generosity and even munificence of these gifts. To the natural pride, which we have felt as our former fellow citizens in the worth and prosperity of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Gale, is now added gratitude for their remembrance and helpfulness.

"The building most amply supplies needs already felt, and that on a scale which indicates the large heartedness of its donors, while the strength and dignity of its architectural structure makes it as once an ornament to the town and a constant lesson to its citizens.

"The town pledges itself to the fulfillment of the wise and fit conditions imposed by its donors, to the careful preservation of the property, to the enlargement of the library, and to whatever may make school and library better subserve the purposes of Mr. and



Mrs. S. C. Gale, and better honor their large and wise liberality."

## TABLETS

In 1910 the trustees of the Damon Memorial had bronze tablets placed in the building with the following inscriptions:

Damon Memorial

1888

In grateful appreciation of the gift of this building and the adjacent grounds, to the Town of Holden by

Samuel Chester Gale

and

Susan Damon Gale

These tablets are erected

1910.

Gale Free Library

1888

Let this be your palace royal; keep always the door wide open, the feast spread and the lights burning, this till these rugged stones shall crumble and be as dust.

From the presentation address of Samuel Chester Gale.

## SAMUEL C. GALE

Samuel C. Gale was born in Royalston, September 15th, 1827. He was descended from the ancient family of Gales of Devonshire, England, running back to William the Conqueror. An ancestor, William Gale, settled in Watertown, Mass., in 1640.

The father of Samuel C. Gale died when he was quite young, leaving four children, who soon aided their mother in the support of the family. A friend of his early days speaks of Samuel as a bright boy, "full of the best New England grit."

He was educated first in Royalston, then at New Salem Academy, and in 1854 was graduated from Yale College. He then taught winter school in Holden and at Worcester High School, and then attended Harvard Law School.

While in Holden he made the acquaintance of Susan Abigail Damon, whom he married October 15, 1861. They had five children, Edward Cheney, Alice, Anna, Marion and Charles Sumner.

He practiced law in Minneapolis, but his great wealth was due to the unprecedented rise in real estate in which he had invested soon after settling in Minneapolis.

Mr. Gale always kept his interest in his former pupils in Holden, and our beautiful library building is the expression of that interest, and of his love for Holden and its townspeople.



## A TRIBUTE

In 1940 the Board of Trustees of Damon Memorial lost its oldest member and the following tribute was inscribed in its records:

## A Tribute

To the memory of

The Reverend Thomas Earle Babb

who died

July 18, 1940

lacking one month and three days

of being 100 years of age.

He served as a Trustee of the Damon Memorial for 46 years, having been elected March 19, 1894.

In the passing of Mr. Babb, the Trustees lost the oldest and one of the most respected members of the board.

During his many years as a Trustee, his pride in the Damon Memorial, occupied by the Gale Free Library, and for several years by the High School, has been most evident.

Everything that pertained to its welfare and progress has been manifest in his valued suggestions at the meetings of the board.

A quotation written in a book presented him in 1909 by Alonzo Knapp Learned, one of our former Trustees and the principal of the High School for many years, does him the honor of being:

“A faithful steward of the manifold grace of God.”

We, the Trustees at this present date, wish to endorse the honor paid him by our former Trustee, and add, also, our sincere appreciation of his great worth as a wise counselor and a stalwart citizen of our town during his long and useful life.

Frank J. Knowlton, Olof Lundstrom, Bertram S. Newell, William J. Powers, William S. Sargent, William H. Warren, Trustees.

## LIBRARY

The Holden Library Association was organized October 4, 1876.

Col. Isaac N. Ross was chosen President, Horace B. Morse, Vice-President, William D. Chenery, Secretary and Treasurer, and Mrs. Ellen Phelps, Librarian, a position which she filled during the history of the Association.

Funds for its support were raised by subscription, public lectures, and an annual assessment of its members.

In July, 1888, a special meeting of the Association was called to take action in reference to presenting the Library to the town, which, with the books presented by Mr. Samuel C. Gale, should form a Free Public Library; and it was voted: "That the Trustees of The Holden Library Association be authorized and directed to transfer the books and other property belonging to the Association to the proper authorities of the town of Holden, whenever the said town shall vote to accept the same in accordance with the constitutional provisions of the Association." The proposition was accepted by the town, and, in accordance with the vote,





PRESENT HOSPITAL







fourteen hundred volumes were transferred to the Gale Free Library.

The following was placed on record by the town, September 26th, 1888, in recognition of the gift:

“The Town of Holden, in accepting the gift of books belonging to the Holden Library Association, desires to express its appreciation of the desire for culture which has made that Association so successful, and its gratitude for the liberality with which the whole Library has now been placed at the service of all our citizens.”

As soon as the establishment of a public library was assured, Mr. John Wadsworth of Chicago sent a check for one hundred dollars, to be used in the purchase of books. The following is the recorded expression of thanks of the town:

“The Town of Holden would respectfully express its thanks to Mr. John Wadsworth of Chicago, for the gift of one hundred dollars for the purchase of books for the Gale Free Library. The town is grateful to be remembered by a former citizen, and to receive a gift so well-timed and useful.”

While the Damon Memorial was building, Mr. Gale gave the town the sum of \$3,000 for the purchase of books. In accordance with the conditions of the gift the town appointed trustees to manage the estate and library, who voted unanimously that the library should be known as “The Gale Free Library.”

When the Gale Library was opened for the circulation of books on November 30, 1888, a native of Holden, and one of its school teachers, Miss M. Addie Black, who in 1889 became the wife of Henry H. Holden, had applied for and received the appointment

as librarian, and in 1941 she is still giving the same helpful service to young and old that she has given for the past fifty-three years.

According to records of the State Library Association Mrs. Holden is the oldest librarian in point of continuous service in one position and probably the oldest in years.

Her duties have greatly increased, as, year by year, many new books have been added, until the number now listed is approximately 12,000 volumes, and with the steady growth of the town, the demands are increasingly great.

In 1938 she was invited to a meeting of the library trustees, where they presented her a bouquet of fifty red roses, and a framed testimonial which reads as follows:

1888-1938

"M. Addie Holden, 50 years of service as librarian, and so recognized by the trustees of the Gale Free Library. May the memories of these golden years be brightened by the appreciation of those whom you have faithfully served and may this testimonial as it hangs on the walls of this historic Damon Memorial be an inspiration to all who may follow."

Thomas E. Babb, Frank J. Knowlton, Olof Lundstrom, Bertram S. Newell, William J. Powers, William H. Warren.



## *Chapter V*

# Holden District Hospital

---

The Holden District Hospital is located on a hill at the right, as one enters the town, coming from Worcester, and from this beautiful location one may view the town and countryside for many miles around, and, not so far away, the ever-changing beauty of our well beloved Wachusett Mountain.

The hospital, which today holds such a very important place in the town and community, stands as a monument to the interest and loyalty of the citizens of this and other towns, and to a group of men and women who, with this objective in mind, were willing to give unsparingly of their time and effort, that the goal might be reached.

The interesting beginning of the hospital was in the town of Rutland, when Mrs. Ethel M. Jenkins learned of the ambition of Dr. Frank H. Washburn, a Holden physician and surgeon, to have a hospital established in Holden.

This idea strongly appealed to Mrs. Jenkins, and she discussed the matter with her husband, and they decided to undertake the venture.

Accordingly, they sold their farm in Rutland, and September 1, 1914, purchased the Emory Rogers place, located on Pleasant Street, in Holden.

This was renovated, and beds for five patients made available, and, with Dr. Washburn as resident physician, and one nurse secured by him, and Mrs. Jenkins as superintendent, and her husband in charge of other

work, the Holden Cottage Hospital was opened October 1, 1914.

Dr. Washburn was born in Falmouth, Maine, graduated from Tufts Medical School in 1899, and had practiced in Jamaica Plain before coming to Holden.

During the first four and a half years three hundred and thirty-one patients received treatment at the hospital, but Mrs. Jenkins' health was breaking under the strain, and she could continue the work no longer.

To lose the hospital with Dr. Washburn and his staff was not to be thought of, and immediately a group of citizens decided to form a corporation. This was done on February 20, 1918, with the following persons present:

Henry W. Warren, Dora L. Warren, James H. Kendall, Clifford W. Stickney, M. D., Claude A. Gray, Robert I. Bramhall, Bertram S. Newell, Frank H. Washburn, M. D., Harry A. Creamer, Rev. George E. Cary, Rev. James W. Leonard, Walter H. Welch, D. D. S., William H. Swenson, Rev. James M. Prendergast, Jefferson W. Coe, William H. Warren, William J. Jamieson.

The Holden Hospital Incorporated was the title given under the Act of Incorporation, which stated its purpose as "acquiring and maintaining a general hospital, and of furnishing therein medical and surgical treatment to the sick and ministering to their wants, and for such charitable service as it may be able to render."

The following officers were elected: President, William J. Jamieson; Secretary, Harry A. Creamer; Treasurer, William H. Warren; Directors, Bertram S.



Newell, Rev. George E. Cary, William H. Swenson, Walter H. Welch, D.D.S., Rev. James M. Prendergast, Jefferson W. Coe, William H. Warren, James W. Leonard, Harry W. Creamer, William J. Jamieson.

In April, 1919, the District Nursing Association was absorbed by the Hospital, which assumed any obligations contracted by the Association before that time.

At the December meeting that year the increasing need of more room and equipment was voiced, and a committee consisting of Bertram S. Newell, Dr. Washburn and William J. Jamieson was appointed to investigate possible sites for a new hospital building. At a meeting of the directors in April, 1920, arrangements were made with Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins for the Hospital to continue in their building as "tenants at will" under the terms of the lease, and Mr. Newell announced at that meeting the purchase of the Milton Holden lot on Boyden Road, consisting of nine and one half acres as a site for the proposed new Hospital.

With this matter decided, the question of raising funds for lot, and building, if erected, became an absorbing problem. This was solved, in part, by the gift of the lot to the Hospital Corporation by Mr. and Mrs. Bertram S. Newell, many times the town's benefactors.

At the same time came another gift, that of five hundred dollars for the building fund, from Miss Adelaide Howe, in memory of her late brother, Nathan Howe, and the same amount was also given by Miss Harriet Howe in his memory.

In May, 1920, a Woman's Auxiliary was organized with Mrs. William H. Warren as president.

At the annual drive in May, 1921, about three thousand five hundred dollars was subscribed apart from the sums pledged by nine organizations.

August 29, 1921, a public meeting of the corporation was held to obtain the opinion of the townspeople as to the advisability of continuing the enterprise in the face of many obstacles.

The sentiment of the meeting was for its continuance, if possible. One member, C. Arthur Marsh, was especially optimistic, and he was made chairman of two committees, the first to investigate concerning the possibility of finding a more adequate building, and the second to consider ways and means for raising funds for the balance of the year.

In September, 1921, Mr. Marsh exhibited plans for a new building, and stated drives for the hospital were to be made in Rutland and Princeton, and in November he reported that with the value of the land considered, the fund had reached practically \$30,000.

January 30, 1922, it was voted that the firm of Fuller & Delano be chosen architects for the new building and that the Building Committee, Messrs. Newell, Jamieson and Marsh, be elected to complete plans and specifications.

March 1, 1922, it was voted that the name of the corporation should be changed to Holden District Hospital, Incorporated. In accordance with the plan of the campaign for funds the following memorials have been established:

Newell Surgery.

Fletcher-Putnam Anesthesia Room.

Frank H. Washburn X-ray Laboratory.



Jefferson Worcester Coe Room.  
Marion Alice Bascom Room.  
James Prendergast Room.  
Nathan Howe Room.  
Edward Kendall Room  
Thomas Henry King Room  
Marion Larkin Warren Room.  
Annie W. Newell Room.  
Henry Waterman Warren Ward.  
Martin Van Buren Jefferson Ward.  
Josiah D. Gregory Delivery Room.  
Edward Phelps Johnson Nursery.

April 19, 1922, was celebrated in a manner never to be forgotten by a group of busy citizens, business men, representatives of the profession, and the clergy, many in overalls, with pick and shovel, gathered on the hilltop to break the ground for Holden's new hospital.

The first sod was turned by Dr. Frank H. Washburn, hospital chief, whose untiring efforts had had so large a part in its organization. When the energetic workers laid down their implements at the end of their day's work, their weariness was forgotten in the thought that they were to realize the fulfillment of a long cherished hope.

Another not to be forgotten day was June 4, 1922, when several hundred people gathered at four o'clock in the afternoon on the sunny hilltop, where a large American flag was flying, there, to witness the laying of the cornerstone of the hospital.

The program included musical selections—Kiwaniis Quartet.

Remarks by the President, William J. Jamieson.

Responses from the Staff and District.

Address—Congressman Samuel E. Winslow.

Laying of the Cornerstone—Bertram S. Newell.

Prayer—Rev. Thomas E. Babb.

During the remainder of the spring and summer the work progressed as rapidly as possible. A number of the contracts were awarded to local concerns.

The general contractors, James Miles & Son, sublet the excavation and foundation work to Axel Pearson. Other contracts were awarded as follows: Plumbing, Edward C. Viner. Building the road from Boyden Road to the Hospital, Frank C. Parker. Electric work, Bancroft Electric Company, Worcester. Heating, Brosnan Heating Company, Worcester.

On October 11, 1922, the Directors held their meeting in the surgery of the new hospital, and on November 18 the building was open afternoon and evening for inspection, and more than 700 persons registered and many others were in attendance.

November 20, 1922, was moving day, and patients were transferred from the old to the new building which was to begin its service, not only to the citizens of Holden and surrounding towns, but to many from more distant places.

The treasurer, Mr. William H. Warren, in his report for the twelve months ending February 28, 1923, gave the cost of the building as \$60,181.29, of which \$8,466.53 was for equipment, and \$675.61 for grading. This did not include the land valued at \$3,500.



Each year many gifts are received which are greatly appreciated, new equipment is added from time to time, and improvements are made in the building and to the grounds.

The response given the annual drives, nurses balls, and the Donation Day contributions, show the whole-hearted support that is being given this institution. In 1926 the number of patients cared for since its opening was 3193. In 1930 it was placed on the approved list of hospitals of the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons.

The report of February, 1940, shows that 843 admissions were made during the year ending on that date. There are now 38 beds in the hospital.

The present district comprises the towns of Holden, Rutland, Princeton, West Boylston, Barre, South Barre, and Oakham.

Surely, Holden owes much to its citizens who have served so faithfully as officers of this institution throughout these years.

The President, Mr. William J. Jamieson, has served continuously in that office since 1918. Three directors, William H. Warren, Bertram S. Newell and William J. Jamieson, have served continuously since 1918, with C. Arthur Marsh and W. Goulding Warren since 1922.

Those who have acted as clerk are: Harry A. Creamer, Bertram S. Newell (18 years) and William H. Warren.

The treasurers have been William H. Warren, Harry A. Creamer, W. Goulding Warren (15 years), Joseph Beals, Hastings Hawkes.

Others who have given long faithful terms of service at the hospital are:

Miss Cecelia V. McCarthy, R. N., superintendent since 1920.

Miss Muriel V. Spinney, R. N., supervisor, 1920.

Mrs. Nellie Judge, 1917.

Mrs. B. Irene Oliver, 1922.

Mrs. Gladys Stevens, 1922.

Miss Jane C. Zaleska, 1929.

Mrs. Mary L. Drawbridge, 1929.

## WOMAN'S AUXILIARY TO THE HOLDEN DISTRICT HOSPITAL

May 24, 1920, Mr. William J. Jamieson, president of the Holden District Hospital Corporation called a meeting of the women of Holden to discuss ways in which they might be of assistance to the Hospital. He appointed Mrs. William H. Warren, chairman of the meeting and Mrs. Walter H. Welch, clerk.

After discussion, the motion was made and seconded that a permanent auxiliary be formed, to be known as the Holden Hospital Auxiliary. In October the name was changed to Woman's Auxiliary to Holden District Hospital.

The first officers to serve were: President, Mrs. William H. Warren, Vice-President, Mrs. William J. Prendergast, Secretary, Miss Ella M. Harrington, Treasurer, Mrs. Frank J. Knowlton, Directors, Miss Helen Warren, Mrs. J. Quincy Dix, Miss Jennie



Veitch, Mrs. Elmer Johnson, Mrs. James Warren, Miss Jennie Swenson, Mrs. E. Cleveland, Miss Dagny Lindgren.

Committees were appointed at once to take charge of monthly sewing meetings.

Throughout the years members have given generously of their time and energy for the support of projects which would replenish their treasury, from which source very frequent contributions of money and gifts of hospital equipment have been most gratefully received by the hospital staff. The members have conducted food sales, whist parties, fairs, and various entertainments, and each year sponsor an annual Donation Day, in which townspeople show their interest in the hospital by generous gifts of food supplies.

A service much appreciated by the patients at the hospital has been the flowers regularly provided for them by members of the Auxiliary.

In 1930, By-laws were adopted and in 1941, a Traveling Library was established which has already given enjoyment and relaxation to many persons.





## *Chapter VI*

# Cemeteries

---

### FIRST BURYING GROUND

One acre and ten rods of land for a burying ground was deeded to the town December 11, 1758, by Samuel Pierce of Holden.

In 1759, a deed from Daniel Henchman, Esq., of Boston, gave "Unto the Town of Holden and their successors forever One Hundred and Twenty Rods of Land for a Buriring place scituate near ye publick Meeting-House." This was dated April 13th, "One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Nine and in the Thirty Second year of his Majestes Reign."

This lay opposite the present common. Among the graves of the early settlers who lie buried here are:

Lieut. Simon Davis, 1763  
Capt. Amos Heywood, 1814  
Lieut. John Abbot, 1799  
Rev. Joseph Davis, 1799  
Dea. Elisha Hubbard, 1814  
Doc. Isaac Chenery, 1822  
and his wife Susanna, 1820  
Rev. Joseph Avery, 1824  
Mrs. Mary Avery, 1842.

In the warrant for the town meeting held March 7, 1742, there was an article reading, "To see if the Town will clear up its burial place," but no action was recorded. May 24, the next year, it was "Voted, that Mr. Samuel Thomson be the person to procuer an acre of land on ye south west side of ye highway tordes

Rutland takeing ye land on which we have buried on as a bureing place for ye Town."

In early days a row of tombs occupied space on the south side of this burial ground.

"April 6, 1795, it was voted to procure a 'carriage to carry the dead.' For many years it was the custom that coffins should be furnished by the undertaker at public expense, in part, at least.

"This early grave yard sufficed for the needs of the people for a long time, but in 1826, the following record appears: 'Voted a Committee to buy a spot or spots of land, for a graveyard and prepare it in a suitable manner for the purpose of burying our dead at the expense of the town.' In August, the sum of four hundred dollars was appropriated to defray the costs of this action. This carefully laid out plot is now known as the Park Avenue Burying Ground."

In 1902 and 1906 Town Clerk Samuel W. Arming-ton had the inscriptions on the stones in these graveyards carefully copied and recorded in the exquisite handwriting of Miss Helen C. Johnson, in two substantially bound volumes, which he presented to the Antiquarian Department of the Damon Memorial. These books have become increasingly valuable, as time gradually erases the lettering on these stones of early date.

In 1909 the town voted to cause a hedge to be set out along the front line and a short distance on the east and west sides of the Park Avenue Cemetery.

It appropriated \$100 for the purpose, and voted that the Village Improvement Society be a committee to carry out the provisions of this vote.



In 1918 the town voted to dispose of the old hearse house, located on the south side of the Park Avenue Cemetery, and that year Normandy poplars, Norway spruce and red pine were planted on each side of the main drive and at the sides of this cemetery.

## GROVE CEMETERY

As the town grew, the two early "graveyards" became inadequate for its needs, and a new one bearing the name "Grove Cemetery" was acquired, and dedicated August 24, 1854. At this service addresses were given by Dr. Paine, the Hon. Isaac Davis, and Rev. Elnathan Davis, and hymns by Mrs. D. Walker and Rev. Elnathan Davis were sung, and a hymn written by Miss Sarah C. Paine was read.

This cemetery is controlled by the Grove Cemetery Corporation.

More land has been added from time to time, until in 1941 the cemetery comprises about five acres of land.

The cemetery for St. Mary's Parish joins Grove Cemetery on the west side.

The beautiful stone entrance, built at a cost of \$1,800, was the gift, in 1888, of two daughters of Holden, Mrs. Lucinda R. Cutting and Mrs. Abigail Coes, and, in a valley between two steep banks, an elliptical water basin with a fountain was the gift of Charles Flagg and William Howe in 1889. This basin has since been filled in and graded.

In 1925 a Memorial Chapel of seam-faced granite was built with money from a fund left for that pur-

pose by Nathan Howe, of Holden, a retired thread manufacturer.

The chapel, finished in hard wood, with tile floor, will accommodate thirty-six people.

At the rear is a crypt, to take the place of the old receiving vault.

On a slope overlooking one of the valleys is a tall monument surrounded by an iron fence.

This marks the grave of a much beloved school teacher.

The inscription is as follows:

Sylvanus B. Roel

Born in

Dummerston, Vt., Nov. 3, 1827—A graduate of Amherst College—A member of Andover Theol. Sem.—consecrated to missionary labor among the heathen—A teacher of a High school in this place for three successive autumns, died, while thus employed,

September 17, 1854.

aged 26 years.

He was loved most by those who knew him best.

As a slight expression of their respect and affection for their beloved teacher, his pupils have erected and enclosed this monument in this new cemetery, where never before man was laid.









HIGH SCHOOL



On the crest of ground directly above this marker is the circular plot known as the Grand Army lot, at which site patriotic exercises are observed each Memorial Day.

### ST. MARY'S CEMETERY

In 1867 three acres of land were purchased in Holden center and the first Catholic Church in town was erected on the west side of the lot which joined Grove Cemetery on the north, the state highway on the south and the railroad on the west side.

The portion of the lot west of the church was consecrated for use as a burial place for members of Saint Mary's Parish, and it has been continued as such up to the present time.

When the new church edifice was erected in Jefferson the first one was sold to Mr. Marcus Moore who converted it into apartments.

It is owned in 1941 by Harrison G. Remileý.





## *Chapter VII*

# Hancock Common

---

A granite boulder, the gift of the D. A. R., honors the donor of this "acre of land." It is inscribed as follows:

1789

Hancock Common

Presented to the town by

Gov. John Hancock

Erected by

Capt. Geo. Webb Chapter

D. A. R.

1916

The following is a copy of the original deed preserved among the Town Records:

Know all Men by these Presents, that I, John Hancock of Boston, in the County of Suffolk and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Esquire, for and consideration of the sum of five shillings and of the love, goodwill and affection which I have and do bear to the Town of Holden in the County of Worcester and from a respect to the public worship of God do hereby give, grant and convey to the said Town of Holden one Acre of land in the centre of said Town of Holden for the accommodation of a public Meeting House, bounded as follows: Beginning at a heap of Stones near the Spot appropriated for the foundation of the Meeting House,

thence running Northeast twenty rods on Land of Rev. Joseph Davis to a heap of Stones, thence turning at right angles and running Northeast eight rods to a heap of Stones, and thence southeast twenty rods to a heap of Stones on the public Road, and thence eight rods on said Road to the first mentioned bound, the aforesaid Land to lay as a Common forever. To have and to hold the before granted premises, to the said Town of Holden, to be held and enjoyed by said Town forever and the said John Hancock, in behalf of himself, his Executors and Administrators, doth engage to warrant and defend the before granted premises to the said Town of Holden forever against the lawful Claims and demands of all persons whatever. . . .

In witness, where of I have hereunto Set My Hand and Seal this Twenty-fifth day of June, A.D. one thousand, seven hundred and eighty-nine. Signed, Sealed and delivered in the presence of

S. Holten  
Nathaniel Gorham

John Hancock



## *Chapter VIII*

# Celebrations

---

## CENTENNIAL

"November 30, 1840, the citizens of Holden assembled at the Town Hall at 7 o'clock, P.M., to take into consideration the expediency of celebrating the first Centennial Anniversary of the Town of Holden. Col. Samuel Damon was chosen chairman, and Charles Chaffin, Secretary of the meeting. After deliberating upon the subject, a unanimous vote was passed, to celebrate the first Centennial Anniversary of the town. The following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to make the necessary arrangements for the anniversary exercises: Samuel Damon, Charles Chaffin, Paul Davis, William Metcalf, Jonathan Rice, Silas M. Hubbard, Lemuel Fiske, Silas Flagg, Jason Mann, Samuel Foster, John Davis, and James Winch. A vote was then passed to invite Mr. Judah Wright to join this Committee."

May 4, 1841, being one hundred years since the municipal organization of the town, by the choice of Town Officers, was chosen as the date of the celebration.

"The committee of arrangements invited the Rev. William P. Paine to deliver an address suitable for the occasion. He declined to accept the invitation in consequence of his arduous duties as a Pastor."

The invitation was then given to Mr. Samuel C. Damon, a native of the town, who signified his willingness to comply with their request, and it is to him that

Holden owes so great a debt of gratitude for his compilation of the early history of the town.

Samuel Chenery Damon, eldest son of Samuel and Alony Chenery Damon, was born in Holden, February 15, 1815. He was graduated from Amherst College in 1836; studied at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1838 and 1839, and was graduated from Andover Theological Seminary in 1841. October 6, 1841, he married Julia Sherman Mills of Natick. They had five sons.

“While pursuing his theological studies, it was his purpose to go as a missionary to India, and he even began a study of the Tamil language. He was ordained September 15, 1841, and was preparing to carry out this long cherished purpose, when a most urgent call came from the Sandwich Islands for a seaman’s chaplain at the port of Honolulu. After careful and prayerful consideration, Mr. Damon surrendered his former plans and accepted this position. He sailed from New York March 10, 1842, via Valparaiso, and Callao, and after a voyage of seven months’ duration, reached Honolulu October 19, 1842.

Mr. Damon’s work at Honolulu was carried forward under the auspices of the American Seaman’s Friend Society. At the time that he entered on his work, from one hundred to one hundred and fifty whale ships visited the port of Honolulu every year. Dr. Damon’s own statement is as follows: ‘From 1842 to 1867, at the lowest estimate, six thousand seamen annually visited this port. During these twenty-five years, my labors were abundant and sometimes beyond my strength.’”

For forty-two years, he was pastor of the Bethel Church, and preached there every Sunday not only



to sailors, but also to merchants, sea captains, and many others who were drawn to this well-known place of worship.

He was not only an able and sought after speaker, but a ready writer, and publisher of a monthly journal which he called "The Friend," and which had a wide circulation.

"The travels, acquaintances and influence of Dr. Damon were very extensive. In 1849 he visited Oregon and California. In 1851 he visited the United States again, coming by the way of the Isthmus of Panama, returning to the Sandwich Islands in 1852. In 1861 he made a tour of the Micronesian Islands on the "Morning Star." In 1869 he again came to the United States, and then traveled through England, Palestine, Egypt, and Greece, returning to Honolulu in 1870. In 1876 and 1880 he visited the United States, and then made an extended European tour, including England, Scotland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France. It is said that he also visited China and Japan. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from his alma mater, Amherst College, in 1867.

His death occurred February 7, 1885.

"He was one of nature's noblemen,—of fine personal appearance,—always pleasant, cheerful and happy,—always laboring to make others happy here and hereafter,—a truly model Christian man."†

---

† From the remarks of Nathan Allen, M. D., at the dedication of the Damon Memorial.

April 28, 1841, the Committee of Arrangements issued the following invitation:

“Centennial Celebration

The hundreth anniversary of the municipal organization of Holden, will be celebrated by the citizens of the said town, on Tuesday, the fourth day of May next.

An address will be delivered at 11 o'clock, A.M. by Mr. S. C. Damon.

Citizens of other towns, and especially such as have formerly been inhabitants of Holden, are invited to be present, and participate in the exercises of the occasion. A Dinner will be provided at the Town Hall by S. Davis.”

The following gives in part an “Extract from the National Aegis, Worcester, May 19,” printed in the Damon history.

“The first century since Holden, in Worcester County was established as a town by the election of municipal officers according to the provisions of the acts of the Great and General Court of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay was completed on May 4, 1841.

The citizens, desirous of honoring the memory of the founders of their community, and of noticing in an appropriate manner an anniversary so interesting, had made arrangements for a public festival on the occasion.”

The day was remarkable in the climate of New England. Snow had fallen during the preceding week to



unusual depth, and the white drifts and beds remained along the borders and covered the little hollows of the fields, and although the sun shone bright, the north-west wind was chilled with the breadth of winter. If we may trust to the records of former time, an hundred years ago, May was like a summer month, and an old diary states, that on the day of the old style then, which corresponded with the fourth of May now, trees were budding, flowers were springing and windows were thrown open to admit the sun.

The citizens collected at an early hour to join in the solemnities and festivities of the anniversary. At 11 o'clock of the forenoon, a procession was formed at the house of Col. Samuel Damon, under the direction of the Committee of Arrangements.

The arrangement of the Procession was under the direction of the following gentlemen, who officiated as Marshals:

Chenery Abbott, Le Baron Putnam, Joab S. Holt, Charles L. Knowlton, Ethan Davis, Nathan Howe, William Howe, Sparrow Crosby, James S. Moore. First went "The Military Band" from the adjoining town of Paxton, a fine body of musicians, conducted by Mr. Thomas Ward and Mr. J. B. Allyer, their leaders.

A most interesting feature in the ceremonies of the day was the attendance of the ladies of Holden, and of some of the dames and damsels of other towns, who marched to the meeting-house.

They were followed by the citizens of Holden and their guests.

The church was filled before the solemn exercises of the occasion commenced, with a large assembly.

After appropriate music by the Paxton band, the following Hymn, composed by Mr. Judah Wright, a venerable citizen of Holden, seventy years of age, suffering under the infirmity of blindness from infancy, was sung by a choir of more than an hundred singers, led by Col. Samuel Stratton.

Hymn—By Judah Wright

Let us our grateful voices raise,  
To celebrate Jehovah's praise,—  
Our fathers trusted in his care,  
And we his richest blessings share.

When we see a hundred years review,  
We see the efforts of a few  
Increasing, till a rising Town  
Does their judicious labors crown.

Dark forests from the view recede,  
And herds and flocks in safety feed,  
And plenty crowns a cheerful home,  
Where prowling wolves were wont to roam.

The active, hardy, wise, and brave  
Have reached their common home,—the grave;  
And beauty, once the source of pride,  
Has long since mouldered by their side.

The ravages which time hath made,  
Teach us that all on earth must fade;  
Then let our best affections rise,  
To solid joys beyond the skies.



Though nothing here can long endure,  
The throne Eternal stands secure,  
And there we may repose our trust  
Nor dread the summons, "dust to dust."

An impressing and eloquent prayer was then offered by the Rev. Horatio Bardwell, formerly clergyman of Holden, during six years a missionary in India, and now a minister of the Gospel at Oxford, in Worcester County.

The address of the Rev. Samuel C. Damon was a faithful, able, and interesting review of the prominent events in the history of the town during the last century.† In clear, simple, and persuasive manner, he related the trials, toils, and hardships of the early planters—explained the causes which induced them to go out from the ancient colony of Worcester—narrated their exertions during the wars with the French and Indians, which disturbed the people of New England—referred to the spirited resolutions and acts of the citizens in the bright period of the revolution—counted the soldiers who fought the battles of freedom during the long war of independence, and traced the progress of the town, in its march of prosperity through the hundred years which have rolled onward since the organization.

Of the high merits of Mr. Damon's Address it is unnecessary now to speak: a copy was requested for the press by the unanimous voice of all who listened to the words of the speaker. The public will be enabled to

---

† At the request of the Town, this first history of Holden was printed after a few additions and alterations had been made by the author.

estimate, when it shall read, the excellence of the manner in which materials collected with extraordinary diligence from the archives of the State, the records of the town, the papers of the past, and from all other sources of information, were arranged, and the accuracy and fidelity of the narrative."

In his address Dr. Damon pays highest tribute to the memory of Rev. Joseph Avery and Doctor Isaac Chenery and closes it with the following lines:

"The citizens of Holden have received abundant blessings, which impressively call upon them on this occasion to be devoutly thankful to God. Honest, intelligent, industrious, and religious ancestors are among the richest of any blessings to any people. Citizens of Holden, God has bestowed upon you that inestimable blessing. The wise man hath well observed, 'The glory of children are their Fathers.' I have found to be beautifully expressed by another, my concluding remarks—†Look not mournfully upon the past; it comes not back again. Wisely improve the present; it is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future, without fear, and with manly heart."

"After the Address, the glorious Anthem of Haydn, 'O! Praise ye the Lord'—was sung by the choir, with the accompaniment of the band.

"The hymn which follows, beautiful in the expression of the thoughts which crowd on such an anniversary, and having the graceful words and gentle flowing rhyme, was then sung by the many voices of the musicians."

---

† Longfellow's *Hyperion*.



## Hymn—By J. H. B.†

One hundred years have roll'd away,  
Unrealized, unseen, unfelt,  
Since first before thine altars here,  
O, God! our holy fathers knelt.

They lie beneath those swelling mounds,  
Those ancient graves that once were green,  
No granite block, no marble pile  
Above their resting-place is seen.

Yet here they live—the thoughts of God  
That in their children's bosoms thrill;  
Each holy prayer, each stirring hope,—  
All these are their memorials still.

First in their noble thoughts and plans,  
The love and worship, Lord, of Thee;  
Then, the strong training of their youth,  
The love of Man and Liberty.

And when, above our old grey hills,  
They heard the battle thunders roll;  
They look'd on those brave men who died,  
With a stern sympathy of soul.

And when we meet—remembering those  
Who laid these first foundations well,  
That, o'er their honored dust, one strain,  
Of triumph and of love may swell.

---

† Jacob Henry Bancroft was the son of Jacob Bancroft, Esq., of Boston, and a fellow student of Dr. Damon at the Andover Theological Seminary.

And we, like them, shall pass away,  
Our thoughts and wishes, hopes and fears,  
Lie buried in our scattered graves,  
Within another hundred years.

And now we bend before Thee, here,  
Stand on the ground our fathers trod,  
Be Thou our strength, our life, our light,  
Our own, as once our Fathers' God.

This hymn was read and sung after the ancient fashion, which was called "deaconing." The venerable Deacon Rice, having consented to take part in the services of the church, standing in his place at the communion table, read line by line. The scene when the whole of that vast congregation rose and joined with the choir in the solemn melody after the manner of "they of an hundred years ago," was deeply impressive.

Rev. John Keep of Pelham in New Hampshire who married Miss Davis, a daughter of Holden, addressed the Throne of Grace, in earnest prayer, after this most interesting exercise was concluded.

The Anthem "Thy Love will build up Zion," was next performed by the choir and band.

The benediction, brief, beautiful, and eloquent was pronounced by the Rev. William P. Paine of Holden.

Again the procession was formed by the Marshals. Preceded by the Band, escorting about one hundred forty ladies, and one hundred and eighty citizens, the company were conducted to the Town Hall, where tables had been spread, and a plentiful and elegant repast had been prepared by Mr. Davis.



The blessing of Divine Providence was implored by the Rev. Mr. Bardwell, and the thanksgiving of the crowded company at the feast was returned by the Rev. Andrew Pollard. Col. Samuel Damon, presided at the table, and announced the following toasts:

*The Day We Celebrate*

Abounding in interesting association and hallowed reflections, and sacred to the memory of those who acted here an hundred years ago.

The flourishing Town of which this was originally a part—She did not cast us off, nor did we rebel—but “the heart of the Commonwealth was too large for the body.”

William Lincoln, Esq., of Worcester, responded to this sentiment, and on the conclusion of his remarks proposed the following toast:

Holden and Worcester—United in past time within the same territorial boundaries, may they hereafter be more closely connected by the ties of friendship.

The President gave the following sentiment:

Honorable Samuel Holden and Gov. Hancock, benefactors of the Town—To the munificence of the one we are indebted for a valuable Library, and to the other for our beautiful Common.

Samuel F. Haven, Esq., of Worcester, next responded to the call of the President:

“There are in this County, and its vicinity, several towns bearing the names of men distinguished in their day for promoting the literary interests of their country, and imparting from their wealth the means of providing for the moral and intellectual cultivation of generations that should succeed them. Holden, Har-

vard, Hopkinton, are prominent among these monuments in honor and memory of such benefactions.

“What more desirable, or more appropriate memorial could be devised, than communities like these, exhibiting in their intelligence, their good habits, their schools and religious institutions, the fruits of those endowments, the name and fame of which they perpetuate?

“What happier tribute could be paid to the worth of men who had regard to our well-being as well as to that of their contemporaries than is rendered by such occasions and such meetings as the present?

“They looked forward to us with paternal solicitude, and, in return, we, this day, unite in expressing the filial reverence and gratitude with which we look back to them. . . .

“The present occasion is not one of merely local interest. The reminiscences of events that happened in this neighborhood anecdotes of men who have lived here, the record of manners and habits, all constitute a tributary stream, to the general current of our country’s history. All history should be, and American history in particular, must be, the history of the people. Not an account of the proceedings of a court, or the operations of any government only, but of what the people have been doing, in villages, and communities, and families. These things lie at the foundation of national character and sentiment, and consequently of national events.

“How would it be possible, for instance, for us to understand the philosophy of our Revolution, and appreciate the spirit that originated and sustained it, without going into the villages and upon the farms, and





BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE







into the dwellings, by the aid of local traditions and histories, and seeing what manner of men were there—how they lived, and what they felt, and thought and did?

“We are carried by this means behind the scenes, or rather into the scenes, of private history, and shown what are really the secret springs of public history. Those matters which possess a natural interest to a particular neighborhood, from association with familiar names, and places, should be of interest to every one who seeks, in the experience of the past, for that wisdom which may be derived from a knowledge of what those who lived before us have done or suffered—wherein they have erred and in what respects they have judged rightly.

“These records present to us pictures of human nature, both of its virtues and failings, such as we can best understand.

“The village disputes, religious quarrels, and political dissensions of past times, are analagous to those to which our own generation is exposed. They afford examples of character and conduct of which we can see the beginning and the end, and may draw there from most useful admonitions. We are living over the same lives, with important variations to be sure, but subject to the same general laws of action, inasmuch as we possess the same nature, and are governed by the same passions and motives, which always lead to similar results—similar in character and consequences. . . .

“The historic genealogy of a village may be made as useful a guide, through the devious paths of life, as the chart of a mariner to him who sails among the quicksands and breakers of the great deep; pointing

out the track that others have pursued, and showing how and where they have advanced in safety, and how and where they have been lost upon shoals and rocks, the victims of heedlessness, or folly, or headstrong passion.

“Not to detain you longer, I will offer as a sentiment—

#### The Genealogical Tree:

“A tree of knowledge, both of good and evil. The fruits thereof we are compelled to taste. May they open our eyes to a consciousness of our own capacities for good, and our own responsibilities for evil.”

#### The Governor of the Commonwealth:

“A worthy and honored descendent of the moderator of our first town meeting, which we are celebrating—

“The patriotic and pious resolutions of our forefathers—Whose first vote after their municipal organization was ‘To have the Gospel preached,’ and the next, ‘To have a writing and reading school kept’.”

The happy and appropriate remarks of Rev. Mr. Paine, following this sentiment we are not so fortunate as to possess.

“Honor to the memory of our Mothers, who presided over the distaff and the loom—May their refined and beautiful daughters be as much distinguished for their industry, energy and virtue.”

After this toast was given, the ladies sent to the chair the following:

“The gallant Sons of our Venerable Fathers—The Daughters will acknowledge their authority and re-



spect their dignity, while they continue to protect and honor them."

"The distinguished historian of Worcester—By whose assiduous labors among musty rolls, the early annals of our town have been put in an enduring form."

This latter toast called forth a pleasant and humorous reply from Mr. Lincoln.

The President gave the following sentiment, and appealed to Isaac Davis, Esq.,† of Worcester for a reply.

"The patriots of the Revolution, of whom this town furnished its full quota—Let the memory of the departed be cherished, and the living be crowned with honor."

Col. Davis rose and addressed the company nearly as follows:

Mr. President:

"One hundred and twenty years ago there was seen a man with a plough on his shoulder passing very near the spot where we are now assembled.

"This individual pursued his course a few miles west of us, where he thrust his plough into the virgin soil, cast in the seed, and reaped the fruit of his labors. That man was the father of the first minister of Holden, and filled various offices of trust in the first municipal elections. I refer to Lieut. Simon Davis, whose remains are entombed in yonder church-yard. He was my great-great-grandfather.

"About twelve years ago, on a 'raw and gusty day' in the month of March, there was seen a young man

---

† In 1941, the Isaac Davis Mansion, in Worcester, stands on Pied-St., opposite Murray Ave. It was built in 1842 and formerly stood in front of the Old South Church.

resembling myself, riding with a young lady whom he had taken for 'better and for worse,' over nearly that same ground that the sturdy pioneer of the forest passed. Her ancestors lay in yonder grave-yard. These, Mr. President, are some of the relations I bear to those who have lived in the first century of Holden. With these connections I do not feel that I am an 'alien and a stranger' here. Never—no never, have I looked on a New England audience with more intense interest than on the present occasion. A few days since I was travelling in Old England—looking at her soil, her climate, her institutions, and the state and conditions of her people, and be assured, Sir, I came home with renewed love for our own happy homes, our own glorious institutions.

"We do not know, nor can we know, how much the masses there suffer, unless we personally witness their degradation. What we call poverty is there considered a comfortable condition. To see the citizens of the thrice happy towns of New England assembled for the purpose of celebrating an anniversary like the present, is to my mind, a noble spectacle. It leads me to the contemplation of the social, civil, and religious privileges we are enjoying. Never have I so fully realized the inestimable value of these privileges. Never shall I again wonder and be surprised that our fathers left their native land—crossed the broad Atlantic at an inclement season of the year, and breasted the dangers incident to this western wilderness. They came to establish the Institutions which we are now enjoying. Without troubling you with further remarks, Mr. President, allow me to offer a sentiment.



“Our social, Civil, and Religious, Institutions—They cost great toil—great suffering—much treasure—much blood;—but not half as much as they are worth.”

One of the soldiers of the Revolution, Mr. Drury, was present, and replied to this sentiment with some appropriate remarks.

Col. James Estabrook of Worcester, a native of Holden, offered the following:

“The early settlers of Holden—Distinguished for their love of order, peace, and sobriety—piously devoted to the cause of civil and religious liberty. May we, their descendents, cherish their virtues, and not prove recreant sons by neglecting to do all in our power to transmit them unimpaired to those who shall come after us.”

Many volunteer sentiments were offered and received with cordial approbation, and we regret that we have not been able to procure them, to add to the account of the pleasant celebration.

At an early hour the assembly separated. No incident occurred to mar the enjoyment of a festival of deep and peculiar interest.

The arrangements were so judiciously made, as to secure best the gratification of those who attended.

Those who participated in this centennial anniversary, can never join there in any other which shall return with the course of the years. To other generations it may be interesting to know in what manner they of the present day honored the memory of their ancestors, and this record is made to perpetuate the recollection of the celebration of the anniversary of the organization of the town of Holden.

## SESQUICENTENNIAL

The subject for discussion on April 8, 1891, at a meeting of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Club was whether or not the town should celebrate the one hundredth and fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation.

At the close of the afternoon session the vote was unanimous in favor of such a celebration, and the same decision was made by the town at a meeting on April 29th, at which the following committee of arrangements was chosen: Stillman F. Morse, Albert A. Metcalf, Emory Rogers, Henry W. Warren, Thomas Hennessey, David F. Estes, Israel M. Ball, William D. Chenery, Waldo E. Austin, Charles E. Parker, George S. Graham, Gustavus S. Holden.

The day selected was July 1, and invitations were sent to all former residents of the town, and friends whose addresses could be obtained.

Bells were rung at sunrise and trains and teams brought people from far and near. It was estimated that two thousand persons participated in the festivities. Music was furnished by the Worcester Brass Band.

At half past ten the Congregational Church was filled. A large choir opened the exercises by the singing of "Home Again."

The Address of Welcome was given by the president of the day, Mr. Stillman F. Morse, after which prayer was offered by William Howe, D. D., of Cambridge, a former resident of Holden.

The hymn written by J. H. Bancroft for the centennial was sung by the choir, and this was followed by the Historical Address given by Rev. David F. Estes.



A hymn written by Mr. Solon P. Davis, of Hartford, a native of Holden, was sung, and this was followed by the recitation of an original poem written by Mrs. Georgia Allen Peck, of Boston, who, also was a native of Holden.

Singing of the old hymn "Let children hear the mighty deeds" and the benediction by Rev. Henry C. Fay of Somerville ended the program of the morning.

Meanwhile, nearly five hundred school children formed in line on the common, and, each school being led by its teacher, marched to assigned places in the town hall, where, after a program of singing, recitations, and declamations, an address was given by Mr. Charles E. Stevens, Superintendent of Schools, on "Bits of Town History."

Following this, prize essays written by the children on some phase of town history were read, closing the morning program.

A box of lunch had been provided for each child, consisting of sandwiches, cake, doughnuts and bananas. After these had been enjoyed, they formed in line and marched to "Armington Hill"; to witness the firing of a salute of one hundred and fifty guns by Battery B, of Worcester.

Meanwhile, nine hundred and fifty persons had been served lunch in the large tent in the rear of Damon Memorial Building and, here, at the opening of the afternoon session Mr. Morse introduced Mr. Alonzo K. Learned, Toastmaster, who spoke as follows:

"It is fitting that the morning of this anniversary day should be ushered in by the ringing of bells and other demonstrations of joy; that these should be supplemented by the more formal exercises of the morn-

ing, the cordial words of welcome, the able and scholarly historic address, the graceful poem, the admirably planned and executed entertainment for the children, the service of song and prayer lifting our thoughts from earth to heaven; fitting also that we should announce at high noon by a salute of one hundred and fifty guns the completion of one hundred and fifty years of organized municipal life.

“As we look upon this group of distinguished men who have honored the invitation of your committee by their presence, we are confident that those exercises to which I referred are about to be crowned by words of pleasant reminiscence and of wit, by the eloquent appeal to consecration to the noblest duties of citizenship and to the purest ideals of duty and of life.

“It is pardonable in us as citizens of Holden, standing as we do today on an eminence of one hundred and fifty years, if we do exult somewhat in the record of those years, and feel, as we look forth, that we are quite a part of the great republic of the United States. For, before the signal gun of the revolution sounded on Lexington Green; before the Declaration of Independence was written by Jefferson; before that august body of men assembled in Philadelphia to frame the charter of our liberties; here among the hills, men were trying the principles of self-government, working out the government problems of the ages, and in training for that heavier struggle in which the great republic had its birth.

“And yet we acknowledge today our allegiance to the government and propose as the first sentiment of the afternoon:—



1. "*The United States of America*: Extensive in domain, exhaustless in resources, the embodiment at once of a wise conservatism and a generous aspiration, she stands today grand and free and confident in her strength to solve the intricate social and political problems of the present and of the future.

2. "*The State of Massachusetts*: From the earliest date in her history, the abode of honest, hard-working, liberty-loving people, 'the home of scholars and the nurse of arms,' potent in influence in the past, but never more so than the present.

"I have the pleasure of introducing a gentleman long and prominently identified with the industries of state; a gentleman deeply interested in the cause of education, and who, in the Congress of the United States, fought in behalf of the hard-working people of this town, of this state, of this nation, a hard fight for hard money, and came off victorious—Hon. Joseph H. Walker of Worcester."

Mr. Walker was received with applause as he rose to reply. He spoke as follows, in part:

"No words have been said, or shall be said, could be such a tribute to the character of the people of Holden as is the gathering of a thousand persons to celebrate the virtues of their ancestors. Those who take no interest in ancestral virtues generally have but little virtue to hand down to their own descendants. Massachusetts, from the days of Plymouth Rock to the present time, has put man before all else, and her present high position is due to this course. Well did her great war governor, himself a splendid example of her

noble sons, say: 'I know not what record awaits me in the future, but I was never mean enough to despise a man because he was poor, or ignorant or black.' Massachusetts has always resented any legislation that would result in injury to her humblest citizen. Such injury has been resented at whatever cost of blood or treasure necessary."

Mr. Learned then gave :

3. "*The City of Worcester*: On this jubilee day we would not forget the town was originally a part of the now flourishing city of Worcester. We rejoice in its present and prospective growth, we rejoice that it is the seat of an already renowned university, that its public schools and higher institutions of learning have a national reputation, that within its borders resides a highly intelligent, moral and religious people. I have the pleasure of presenting to you the official representative of the city of Worcester, His Honor, Mayor Francis A. Harrington."

Mayor Harrington was cordially received, and in response said in substance:

"The interests of Holden and Worcester are identical. The mother town is proud of Holden and her record. She is proud of the position her citizens have taken. Worcester appreciates the many sons and daughters that she has received from this town and is glad to join her other neighbors in speaking words of congratulation, and in hoping that Holden's two hundred and fiftieth anniversary may be as successful as this."



In presenting the next sentiment, Mr. Learned said :

4. "There are many present here today who vividly recall the centennial celebration of the town. We desire to connect this anniversary with that of the fathers, and therefore I propose to use two of the sentiments then offered, the first of which is, 'Honor to the Memory of our Mothers, who presided over the distaff and the loom. May their refined and beautiful daughters be as much distinguished for their industry, energy and virtue.' To this beautiful sentiment, calling our remembrance to the presence, the labors, the sweet and blessed influence of mothers, 'who have passed into the skies,' I have the pleasure of calling upon a gentleman who has the reputation of being the very pink of speechmakers, Hon. Alfred S. Pinkerton of Worcester."

Mr. Pinkerton said in response :

"When I saw the memorial which had been erected to commemorate the loyalty of the men who stained Malvern Hill and other battle fields with blood, I remembered that the women of this town had a noble record as their brothers who went forth to do and die. I am very glad to note Holden's progress, but when it counts the elements of its success it should not be forgotten that the mothers have largely aided in securing it. Massachusetts is proud of her women. They have stood in the front rank of every reform that has been undertaken. Nor is it too much to say that they are the highest type of her civilization and the richest product of her soil."

The succeeding toast was prefaced with the following words:

5. "In the operations of government, the judiciary department must ever hold and exercise important functions; for 'Justice,' Webster says, 'is the ligment which holds civilized beings and civilized nations together.' Whoever, then, labors to extend justice between man and man, whoever from the vantage ground of official station—

'Poises the cause in Justices' equal scales  
Whose beam stands sure, whose rightful  
cause prevails—'

'connects himself in name, and fame and character with that which is and must be as durable as the frame of human society.' The Judiciary of Massachusetts. To respond, I call upon the Hon. William T. Forbes, judge of probate and insolvency for Worcester County, a lineal descendant of Rev. Joseph Avery, second minister of the town, whom Mr. Damon, in his centennial address, characterizes as 'pre-eminently a peace-maker.' "

Judge Forbes, in his response, described the administration of justice was a feature of those days. Those old ministers who sat in judgment did much to shape the course of events.

Mr. Learned then said:

6. "You are all familiar with the beautiful picture drawn by Goldsmith in 'The Deserted Village' of the 'Village Preacher.' Yet there is scarcely a town within the limits of the Commonwealth but has been blessed



by the life and labors of just such men as Goldsmith so vividly portrays;—men who came bearing the highest credentials of scholarship, of character and of piety,—content to spend their lives in the holy offices of kindness, of charity and of religion. Rev. Joseph Davis, Rev. Joseph Avery, Rev. Dr. William P. Paine, men of blessed influence and blessed memory! They rest from their labors, their bodies slumber amidst the voiceless congregations to whom they ministered, but their works do follow them.

“To the sentiment, the Christian minister in the Commonwealth, I have the pleasure of calling to respond a venerable clergyman, for two periods pastor of the Baptist church, in this town, Rev. Josiah H. Tilton, of Reading.”

Mr. Tilton replied appropriately, and subsequently Rev. William Howe, D. D., paid an especial tribute to “Parson Avery.”

The next sentiment was,—

7. *“The Prominent Men in Worcester County Fifty Years Ago:* Fifty years ago were gathered in yonder hall the men active in the affairs of the town, Col. Samuel Damon, Charles Chaffin, Silas Flagg, William Metcalf and their associates, and around them were others conspicuous in the life and thought of the present city of Worcester. They sought, as we are seeking today, to honor the founders of this town. Those men have passed away; but there was seen upon the streets of Worcester until within a few years the venerable form of one of the men participating in the exercises of that occasion. I refer to the late Hon. Isaac Davis, a descendant of Lieut. Simon Davis, whose ashes lie

entombed in yonder churchyard. 'In the sons the sires survive,' and I have the honor to introduce to you Hon. Edward L. Davis of Worcester."

Mr. Davis responded most fittingly, referring especially to the part taken in the affairs of Holden by his ancestors.

8. "The echoes of the cannonading of Sumter had scarcely died away, when, upon yonder green, was seen a body of men ready to leave home and kindred, and engage in the perils of war. Their promptness and alacrity was characteristic of the history of the town during that prolonged struggle. We have with us this afternoon one who knew the soldiers of Holden, in the camp, on the march, on the battlefield, in the dangerous and bloody assault, one endeared to them by manly acts of personal kindness, by many perils passed with them, by honors and results of victory shared with them, and who is prepared to speak of the Soldiers of Holden in the Civil War, most eloquently. Soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic, women of the Relief Corps, ladies and gentlemen, I present to you Gen. Augustus B. R. Sprague of Worcester."

Gen. Sprague was received with three cheers by the audience, led by the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic, many of whom had served under him, and who attended the dinner and the exercises in the church by special invitation in a body. He paid fine tribute to the patriotism of the town, and the bravery and worth of its soldiers.

"Holden's soldiers were to be found in the foremost ranks of war, an honor to the town both living and dying."



The sentiment, "The Schools of Massachusetts," was responded to by Hon. John W. Dickinson, Secretary of the State Board of Education; "The Industries of Holden," by Hon. V. B. Jefferson; "Personal Reminiscences," by Thomas Cleland, M.D., of New York City, and to the closing sentiment, "The Gallant Sons of our Venerable Fathers," repeated from the centennial, Hon. John R. Thayer responded. Brief speeches were also made by Rev. William A. Lamb of Newton, and Mr. Solon P. Davis of Hartford, Conn., and the exercises of the day closed with the benediction by Rev. David F. Estes.

1930

## TERCENTENARY

*Commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the  
Founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.*

Whenever an occasion has occurred which called for the expression of their loyalty and patriotism, Holden citizens have entered whole heartedly into preparations for its observance, and it was this spirit of enthusiasm which made the celebration of the Tercentenary an event long to be remembered by young and old.

On Sunday morning, July 27, at 10:30, Harold A. Stevens, dressed in Puritan Costume, started from the parsonage on Highland Street, marched to Main Street and around Hancock Common to the church steps "drumming the residents to worship" at a union service in the Congregational Church.

The church was crowded to the doors, many visitors being among those present.

Music and sermon were in accord with the subject. The pastor, Rev. Charles O. Eames took for his text a passage from the 22nd Psalm "Our Fathers trusted in Thee. They trusted and got us delivered."

The tercentenary hymn sung to the tune of "Mendon" was written by Rev. Thomas E. Babb.

### *Tercentenary Hymn*

Three hundred years, one little ray  
In Times unmeasured, endless day;  
And small this home of Pilgrim stock  
From Salem's Shore to Plymouth Rock.

But Thought divine, through human thought,  
A Commonwealth heroic wrought  
Of earnest souls from o'er the sea,  
Who knew the truth that makes men free.

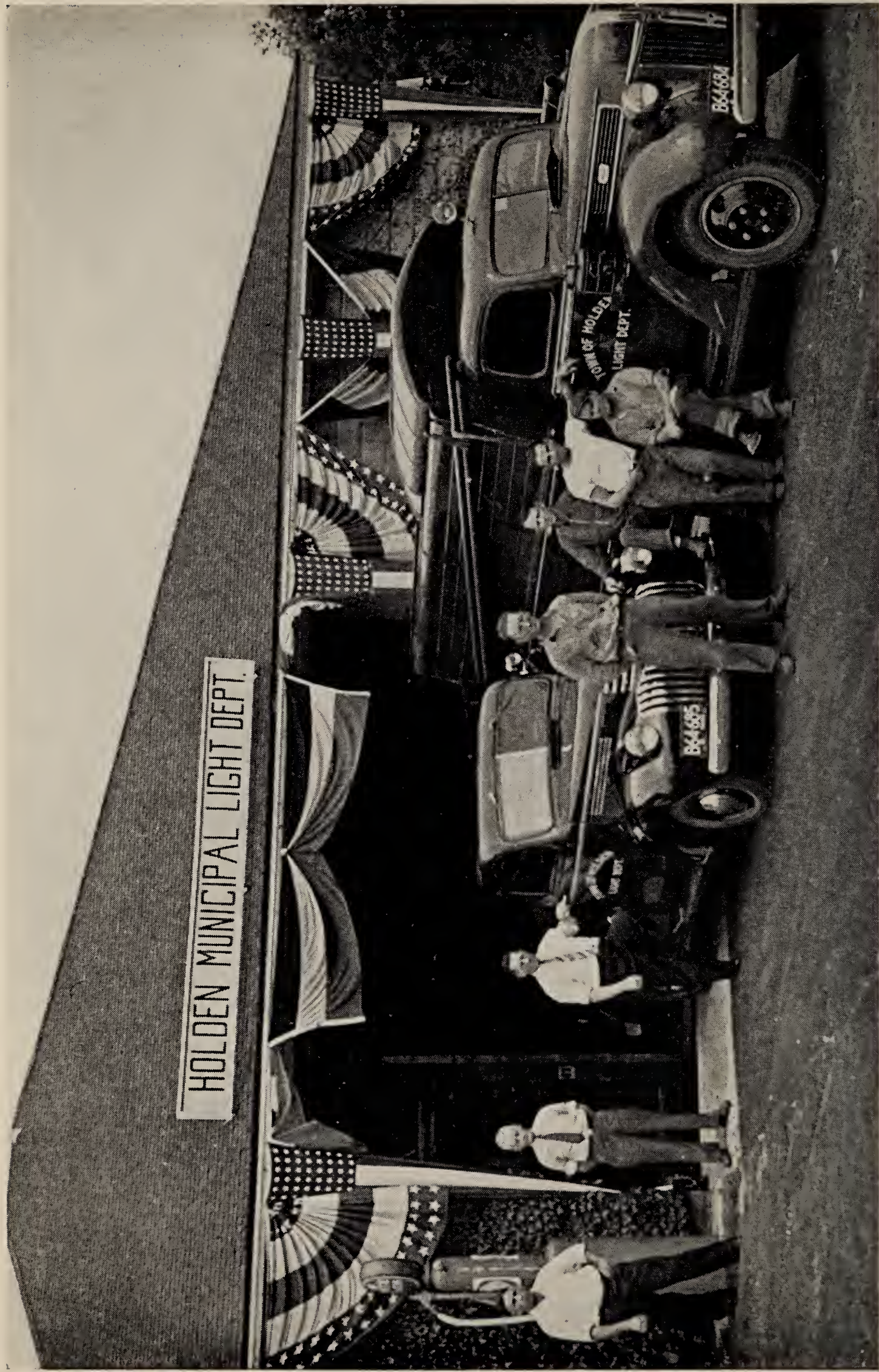
On firm foundations deep and strong,  
The love of right and scorn of wrong,  
The structure crowned, the well wrought plan,  
Not wealth of gold but wealth of man.

Hail! Old Bay State, of noble name!  
O'er all the word thy far-flung fame!  
True faith in God and man, thy creed,  
Has been of other States the seed.









HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT. DEPARTMENT



More centuries may that life of thine  
Still live, and far thy virtues shine,  
Till God's good will all nations see,  
And man one Brotherhood shall be.

Special services were also held in Saint Mary's Church in Jefferson and at the Swedish Churches in Chaffins.

Monday evening, July 28, an Old Folk's concert sponsored by the Holden Woman's Club was held in the High School Auditorium.

George M. Bancroft "Singing Master" directed the chorus of 75 men and women dressed in old time costumes, who rendered a program of old time favorites, each one of which was heartily applauded.

Tuesday evening, July 29, the High School Alumni held their annual re-union, with election of officers, a short entertainment, and dancing.

On Wednesday, July 30, Old Home Day, came the climax of the celebration.

A concert by the Holden Community Band at 9:30 preceded the colorful parade, in which twenty or more organizations in gayly decked "floats," led by the chief of police, Frank K. Packard, moved from Dawson's through Boyden and Phillips Roads, Highland Street, Walnut and Maple Streets to Sunnyside ending at the common where prizes were awarded.

The prize for the most beautiful float went to the Holden District Hospital. Prizes were also awarded to Capt. George Webb Chapter, D.A.R., and Meadowbrook Farm. Honorable mention went to John E. Harkins Post, A. L. Auxiliary, Asnebumskit tribe, I. O. R. M. and Zottoli's Garage.

An interesting feature in the parade was the original tin peddler's cart once owned and driven about the country by John Boynton, who founded Worcester Polytechnic Institute on the profits he made with this cart. The cart is now the property of the Institute.

In the parade the cart was driven by Walter G. Smith. Dinner was served in the Congregational Church at 12:00 and 5:30 o'clock. Lunches were served on the grounds. Lunt, caterer.

At 1:30 another band concert was given on the common, and this was followed by the Pageant of the Massachusetts Bay Tercentenary, written by Esther C. and Lawrence A. Averill.

This was staged on the grounds of the Damon Memorial, under the direction of Mrs. Lois Porter Drawbridge, and had more than 150 participants, all in costume.

A band concert on the common from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. ended the day's festivities.

The Tercentenary Celebration committee were: Frank C. Parker, Franklin C. Hubbard, James H. Kendall, Annie F. Newell, Florence G. Holden, Ernest R. Nyberg, Mary C. Bascom, Frances A. Phillips, Walter W. Gleason, Emma R. Rivers, Dennis W. Harrington, Helen T. Warren, Addie B. Holden, W. Goulding Warren.

The Bicentennial observance of the Town of Holden is described in detail in another chapter of this book.



## *Chapter IX*

# Forces of Nature

---

## EARTHQUAKES

“The great earthquake occurred November 15, 1755. The shock was felt in various parts of North America. In Boston, ‘one hundred chimnies were in a manner leveled with the roofs of the houses. Many clocks were stopped.’ In New Haven, Ct., the ground in many places seemed to rise like the waves of the sea. The motion of this earthquake was undulatory. Its course was nearly from northwest to southeast. Its extent was from Chesapeake Bay, southwest, to Halifax, northeast, about eight hundred miles. The effects of this earthquake were most visibly apparent in that part of Holden, subsequently set off to form the town of West Boylston. The Rev. John Mellen, at that period pastor of the second church at Lancaster, (now Sterling), has given a minute description of the place, as it then appeared. Several acres of land were sunk, in some places ‘more than the height of a man.’ Trees on each side of the breach were thrown in various directions ‘and sometimes crossing each other overhead, at right angles, sometimes thrown up by the roots.’ The old channel being blocked up, the water flows in an entirely new direction.

“The stump of a tree that happened to stand directly over the chasm, on the east, is divided into equal parts, one standing on the outside of the chasm; the other on the inside, but not opposite to each other. The half within the chasm being carried five feet forward

towards the river.<sup>†</sup> It is a remarkable fact that this earthquake occurred the same month and year with that terrible convulsion of the earth which sunk a portion of Lisbon, the chief city of Portugal, containing a population of 150,000; one fifth part of whom suddenly perished. Every church and convent fell. Fires broke out two hours after the shock, which continued to rage for three days, so that the city was completely desolated."

December 24, 1940, slight earthquake shocks were experienced over a wide area in this section.

In Holden the tremor was sharp enough to cause the tolling of the bell on the Baptist Church.

## THE CYCLONE

"The most remarkable event of the half century was the Cyclone of 1871. About half past four on Sunday afternoon, June 11th, a violent wind, accompanied by thunder and lightning, swept a path of destruction through the town. The storm was seen nearly a mile away. It was described as looking like a whirling funnel-shaped column of dust, filled with the limbs of trees and other wreckage, which were continually shooting up in the middle, and as steadily falling in a stream at the side. Its course was traced from Spencer, through Paxton, Holden and West Boylston into Boylston, where its power seemed spent. It mowed a swath about ten rods wide, in which large pine trees were snapped off like pipe-stems. Coming over the hill from Paxton, it first struck the place of Lewis Martin, who was in his house together with his family,

---

<sup>†</sup> Mass. Historical Collections, Vol. 4.



including five small children. The house and barn were completely destroyed, and the inmates scattered. An infant was found in the cellar in a barrel surrounded with bricks. The whole family escaped, however, with nothing more serious than bruises. From here the tornado swept through the woods, across the pond, over the hill down into the village of Holden. It first shattered the barn of Samuel Griffin, and partially or completely unroofed the houses of Hastings Newell, Marius C. Cooly and Samuel Fiske. The houses and barns of Anson Lakin, Michael McLaughlin and Mrs. Ira Broad, lying next, were wrecked, as was also the house of S. D. Hubbard, in part, and his carpenter shop completely. In this shop Charles E. Burnett was caught and held beneath the timbers of the ruin, but fortunately escaped with a broken arm and severe cuts and bruises. The house of Ebenezer R. Parker was entirely destroyed. The house was taken up by the wind, moved about its width and dropped a heap of pieces. Both Mr. and Mrs. Parker were injured, the arm of the latter being dislocated. Other damage was done to various buildings in its course, the chimneys of the Roman Catholic Church were thrown down, and the belfry of the Baptist Church was severely wrenched, and even a stonewall in the path of the cyclone was overturned. A horse was found in a neighboring garden, still tied to the plank to which he had been fastened in the stable, but without a bruise or a mark upon him. The whole ruin in the village was wrought within the space of two minutes. The pecuniary damage in Holden was estimated at the time as amounting to twelve or fifteen thousand dollars."

## BLIZZARD OF 1888

The "great blizzard" occurred on March 12, 1888, and the snow bills in Holden that spring were \$1,053.40.

## 1938 HURRICANE

The morning of September 21, 1938, dawned the same as many another other autumn day, but before nightfall widespread devastation and disaster had occurred such as never before had been experienced in New England.

The facts regarding the hurricane of 1938 and the havoc it wrought would fill many pages.

By early afternoon on that day the wind began to blow increasingly, and we soon realized that something out of the ordinary was in progress.

As time went on, amid the sound of torrential rain could be heard the crashing of giant trees.

Groves of large pines went down like grass, and many century old trees about the center were felled.

A number of barns and garages in town were demolished, and the Baptist Church lost its spire, as did numerous other historic New England churches.

Light, telephone and bus service in Holden were disrupted, but there was no fatality in town.

The three tall steel towers on the W. T. A. G. transmitting station in Chaffins were hurled to the ground and wrecked, despite the fact that they were constructed to withstand a wind velocity of 115 miles an hour. However, the service was quickly switched to the station's auxiliary transmitter on Franklin Street, in Worcester, where it broadcast hundreds of bulletins



and messages to anxious friends and relatives of Worcester County residents stranded in various places.

When the storm had spent itself, Holden citizens with any outside help obtainable began at once the work of reconstruction, with the result that bus service to Holden was resumed the following day, and in only four days, broken and tangled wires were repaired, and "there was light" again.

Barns and garages were rebuilt, and the next year the spire of the Baptist Church was restored to its former beauty.

"Though much is taken, much abides," and already nature and the hand of man have eradicated many of the scars left where historic trees planted generations ago were uprooted by the storm, and the young trees recently planted will in the future beautify the town as did those of old.





## Chapter X

# Mills and Villages

---

One of the oldest maps\* of Holden, bearing the date May 20, 1795, has a marginal note which states that "There are in the Town of Holden five Grist Mills and Seven Saw Mills."

In 1831, Holden had five cotton mills, two woolen mills, two tanneries, ten saw mills and three grist mills.

Around these mills homes were built and the section became a center of business activity.

Fire was always a menace in those days, where water from some nearby pond or well was the only source of fire protection, and there were many mills in Holden, which, when thus destroyed were never rebuilt, the district reverting to a farming community, as residents sought occupation and homes in other localities.

In some instances mills replaced their early equipment with machinery for the production of wool or cotton cloth and the early settlements became thriving villages.

In 1895, the villages in Holden and their population were as follows:

Holden Center, including South Road	600
Chaffinville	226
Dawsonville	203
Jeffersonville	826

---

\* A map of the Town of Holden based on the U. S. survey of 1885, identified as "Worcester Quadrangle" may be obtained from the Department of the Interior, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. at a cost of ten cents.

Quinapoxet	361
North Woods	120
Springdale	143
Unionville	123

The early settlers were attracted to this region because of the abundance of ponds and brooks which furnished power for early industry, nor could they foresee the day when the march of progress would leave those banks deserted and the clear waters of their "unfailing streams" would flow undisturbed for many miles to supply the needs of a great metropolis.

This has taken place in our day, leaving only memories of a number of beautiful villages with shaded streets and well kept homes where now "many a garden flower grows wild" and "a few torn shrubs the place disclose."

## CHAFFINVILLE

It is an accredited tradition that the first water privilege in town was at Chaffinville, where John Bigelow built a mill in 1726. Manufacturing was begun here in 1817 by Royal H. Chaffin.

He at first made a specialty of dyeing wool and coloring yarns, in which he attained great excellence, and a very wide reputation, the first prize having been awarded him in a competition of much importance. Mr. Chaffin ran the mill for many years, and then sold out to his son, Alfred H. Chaffin. In his hands woollen goods suitable for prison uniforms were made.



In 1879, it was a one-set mill employing nine hands. June 20th, it was burned, just after having been refitted and leased to Peter Scanlon & Co.

About 1870, Alfred H. Chaffin established an unusually fine grist-mill, which was burned and rebuilt.

From 1885 to 1890, John W. Shrewbrooks operated a grist-mill and shoddy mill here. This was destroyed by fire in 1890.

A shoddy mill was rebuilt in this location and was operated for a year by August Pearson, and by a number of others for short periods.

The property was acquired by the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and the mill industry came to an end in this early settlement of the town.

## EAGLEVILLE

This village was also known as "Brick City," as for many years the only brick house in town was located there.

In 1806, Caleb Kendall, 2nd, with his young wife, Dolly (Sawyer) came to Holden and built a saw and grit-mill at Eagleville which he operated until 1829, when it was sold to Samuel Clark, who erected a small factory there. This mill was burned in 1834, but in the following year it was rebuilt, and enlarged. In 1840, it was owned by LeBaron Putnam, and was run under the name of The Eagleville Manufacturing Company. It had at this time sixteen hundred spindles, and the annual product amounted to two hundred and seventy-five thousand yards of shirting.

After the sale of the Eagleville mill, Caleb Kendall, 2nd, purchased a large farm, heavily timbered and

erected a saw and grist-mill on the present Kendall Road opposite the dam that formed the old Kendall Reservoir. The cellar hole of his home which was near this mill may be seen today surrounded by lilac bushes planted there by Dolly Kendall.

In 1847, Edward, son of Caleb Kendall, 2nd, removed to Boston where he became one of the leaders of Cambridge industry. Kendall Square, in Cambridge was named in his honor, and the high pressure boilers manufactured there were sold in all parts of this country as well as in Turkey, China, and other far away countries. When he retired from business he built a beautiful home on the hill overlooking the lake which covers the meadow which he had mowed as a boy. There the family resided for many years, taking an active part in the church and community life.

In 1852, Luther Wright and Alfred Morse purchased the Eagleville property, and in 1860, Mr. Morse became the sole owner. The trustees of his estate sold the property to Milton S. Morse, in 1874. He died in 1877, and the mill was run under the name of Estate of Milton S. Morse until 1881, when the name of Holden Mills was adopted.

In 1888, the firm consisted of George M. Morse, Susand A. Monroe, and Stillman F. Morse, the last named taking charge of the business until 1879.

In 1893, the property was purchased by the Jefferson Manufacturing Company.

In 1894, seventy hands were employed at the mill, and "twill goods" manufactured there, had the reputation of being the best sold in the Providence Market.



## UNIONVILLE

The first manufacturing in Holden was done at Unionville, a village about half way between Chaffinville and Quinapoxet.

"Messrs. Eleazer Rider and Sons commenced spinning Cotton Yarn here in 1809. These persons had previously been engaged in the same business at West Boylston. It is stated upon good authority that they were among the first, (if not the first) manufacturers of cotton yarn in Worcester County. In 1810, the factory of Messrs. Rider contained 48 spindles. The same year, the establishment was purchased by Mr. Joshua Bassett and Mr. Farnum White. An addition was then made of 56 spindles. Mr. John Rudman purchased of Bassett and White, in 1814. The factory was sold to Mr. John Slater, in 1819. In 1821, Mr. John Lees, became the owner who continued to make repairs and additions during the three following years. Weaving by the power loom commenced in 1822. In 1824, Mr. Lees sold nineteen bales of sheeting to Mr. Samuel Parkman, Jr., of Boston, who shipped the goods to Batavia. It was reported at the time, to have been the first shipment of cotton goods from this country, which passed around Cape Good Hope."

"Mr. Lees ran the mill more than twenty years, the firm name being Lees and Eldridge."

Later, Jonathan M. Ladd ran it a number of years. The mill was last operated by Charles L. Truchon, who confined its operations to the spinning of cotton yarn which gave employment to about twenty persons. It was destroyed by fire August, 8, 1882.

## JEFFERSONVILLE

*(Formerly called Drydenville)*

In 1825, a Mr. Morse built a factory at the village now known as Jefferson. It soon passed into the hands of John Jefferson. "In 1841, it was a satinet factory containing one hundred and eighty spindles and eight looms."

"For many years previous to 1830, Colonel Artemas Dryden was engaged in this village in the manufacture of machines for carding. The first power cards used in this country were made by him. Later he built a satinet factory which in 1841, contained three hundred spindles and eight looms. At that time it was owned by Samuel Damon."

In 1858, manufacturing was continued by William Howe and Theron E. Hall who formed a partnership and engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods. In 1860, Martin V. B. Jefferson bought out Major Hall and the business was continued under the firm name of Howe & Jefferson until 1886.

Mr. Howe removed from Jefferson to Holden Center in 1889, where he built the large house next east of the stores and filling station on the corner of Reservoir and Main Streets. He was born in Holden, and held many responsible positions in church and town. January 1, 1886, Mr. Jefferson purchased the interest of Mr. Howe, and the business was conducted under the name of the Jefferson Manufacturing Company. In 1891, there were 275 "hands" employed.

Mr. Jefferson during these years, held numerous important offices in the town and state.



December 8, 1892, fire destroyed the "Lower mill" and badly damaged the "Upper mill," with a total loss of \$150,000.

Immediately plans were made for a new brick building on the site of the burned mill.

In 1893, the Jefferson Manufacturing Company purchased the real estate of the Holden Mills.

The author is indebted to Mr. Francis L. Coe for the following account of the Jefferson Manufacturing Company:

"In 1906, upon the death of Martin V. B. Jefferson, the company was incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts with William H. Coe, Treasurer, and Jefferson W. Coe, President. During the World War of 1914-1918 the company manufactured many thousands of Army blankets both for the U. S. Government and the Italian Government.

"In 1920, Jefferson W. Coe died from influenza so prevalent at that time, and was succeeded by his brother Robert H. Coe who had returned from overseas duty in France. In this same year William H. Coe resigned as an official of the Company and Francis L. Coe, then attending Law School in Boston was elected to the Directorate.

"In 1923, it was decided to concentrate all activities in one plant and the machinery and office of the company at the lower plant at the junction of Princeton and Quinapoxet Streets was moved to the Eagle Lake plant on Main Street in the westerly part of the village. In 1926, a new brick addition was added to the Eagle Lake plant and many improvements made to the existing property. From 1920 to 1929, the Company was

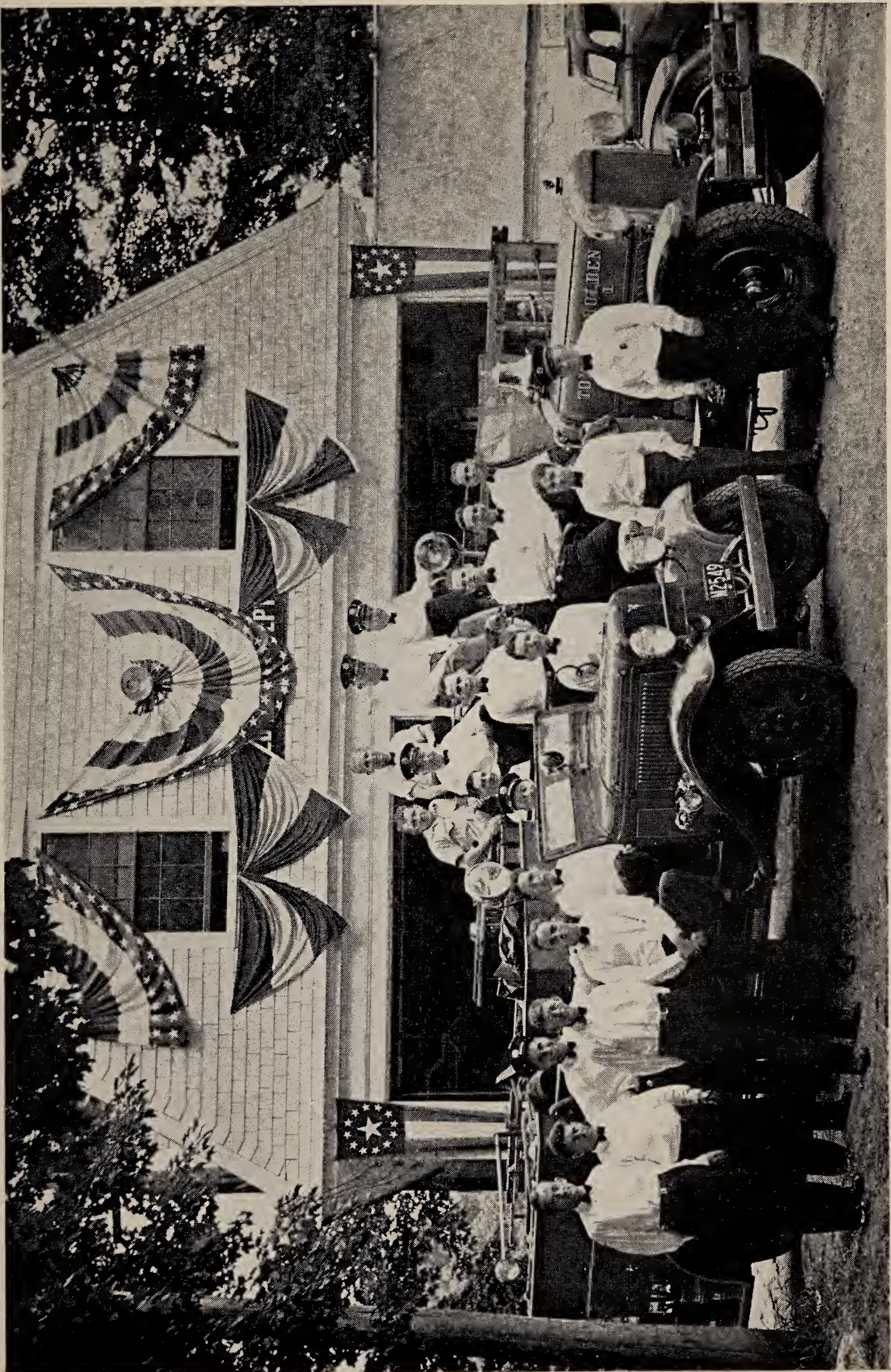
unusually active and was renowned for its steady operation and quality of fabrics produced. In 1929, William H. Coe died at his home in Worcester. The following years were most difficult ones as the country was in the throes of a depression. In 1934, the employees of the Company, numbering approximately 350 voted to Unionize and become affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. This unit was subsequently absorbed by the C.I.O. During the following five years the company was beset with labor difficulties which combined with a declining demand for its manufactured product resulted in a vote of the stockholders to liquidate the enterprise in December, 1939. At this date the real estate was valued at \$293,725.

"The homes and tenement properties owned by the company were sold by public auction in 1940. It is interesting to note that a great majority were purchased by local people for permanent homes. In 1941, the machinery and equipment were sold by auction bringing an approximate total of some \$200,000, and at this writing the buildings are still standing though vacant."

## NORTH WOODS

"The mill at North Woods, or Ruralville, was erected by B. T. Southgate of Blackstone, for a woolen mill, but in 1827 it was changed to a cotton mill by William Buffum. It afterwards passed into the hands of Colonel Samuel Damon, who owned it in 1840, when it contained fourteen looms and one thousand spindles, and later, Wesley Howard made bagging there." Then it was run by J. W. Freeman, who, in 1855 was making





HOLDEN FIRE APPARATUS







cotton cloth there. He was succeeded by A. P. Colvin. From 1858 to 1862, it was controlled by Wright and Morse; with William H. Walker as manager. In 1862, it was transferred to Walker and Wright, who ran it until about 1874, when the mill became the property of the West Boylston Manufacturing Company. They ran it for some years with Whipple Harris as agent, and in 1882 leased it to A. H. Turner and Co. In 1894, about forty-five "hands" were employed.

It was burned in 1896. The equipment at that time consisted of a woolen mill, dye house, store house, smith shop, two, four tenement houses, two, one tenement houses, two reservoirs and water power at a total valuation of \$11,025.

The name Ruralville stamped on the cloth produced here was used for years and was the mark of highest quality goods.

This village was located in the northwest part of town in the vicinity of the junction of the present Cobb Road and Princeton Street.

## BRYANTVILLE

The water privilege at the junction of Salisbury and Main Streets, now called Dawson, had been used by Town Bartlett as a candle-wicking mill, and afterwards as a wood-working shop. It was improved by Lyman Bryant, who came to town in 1827, and for a short time was in partnership with James Cowden.

Mr. Bryant was an undertaker in Holden for more than 30 years and made coffins in his mill.

He was succeeded by his son, Frederick L. Bryant, who ran a planing and cider mill there until 1908, when it was purchased by Frank C. Parker, who ran it until it was destroyed by fire in 1918.

## QUINAPOXET

The factory at Quinapoxet and the village connected with it, stood on six hundred square acres of land, formerly a part of the "French Land" which was bought by Damon and Thaxter, in 1827.

In 1831, Samuel Damon, having purchased the interest of his partner, erected a mill for the manufacture of cotton sheeting. In 1841, this mill contained one thousand, four hundred spindles and forty looms, manufacturing two hundred and fifty thousand yards of sheeting. Colonel Damon with various partners controlled the mill until his death in 1851.

In 1856, it was sold to A. F. Smith of Grafton. From 1862, it was run for some years by Howe and Myers. It then passed into the hands of Stowell and Ward, who manufactured satinets. May 27, 1871, their mill was burned with an estimated loss of thirty thousand dollars. It was at once rebuilt, and was run for a time by Wood and Ward, and in 1876, was purchased by Cyrus G. Wood who ran it for many years, the business then passing into the hands of his sons J. Frank and Clarence Wood.

In 1910, Horace Wyman became the owner and in 1915, the property was sold by his heirs to E. Schwarz of New York, when it was run under the firm name of Quinapoxet Manufacturing Company, until it was



taken over by the Metropolitan Water Commission on November 15, 1929.

At that time a person entering the village from the south, passed the school house built in 1881, and destroyed by fire in 1930, and a little farther on, at the right, on an elevation overlooking the village, stood the residence of J. Frank Wood.

On the opposite side of the street, on the north westerly corner of Mill and Wachusett Streets, was located the building housing the general store and the post office.

For some distance on both sides of the street, were attractive, well cared for homes, and then one came again to the farming district.

The four set mill, a brick structure, was located on Mill Street and on its site a mill had been in almost continuous operation for ninety-seven years. At that time 105 persons were employed there.

In 1929, the mill property consisted of 143 acres of land in addition to the mill buildings, four, four apartment houses, six single houses, two, two apartment houses, four bungalows and the store block, the total valuation being \$65,100.

## LOVELLVILLE

Deacon John Lovell, for many years previous to 1841, had run a machine for "custom carding" and a small mill for the manufacturing of cotton batting, and Candle Wicking. In 1837, the mill contained six hundred spindles, twelve hands were employed, and ten thousand pounds of warp, eight thousand

pounds of batting, and twelve thousand pounds of wicking were manufactured.

On Sunday, May 24, 1847, the mill and its contents were burned. At this time the mill was owned by David Parmenter, and the machinery was owned and operated by Holbrook and Wilder. After some years the mill was rebuilt, and in 1873, it was controlled by the Lovellville Manufacturing Company; in 1876, by Messenger and Wright, of New York; in 1879, by the Lovell Woolen Company, under the management of Klebert and Findeisen, and in 1886, it was purchased by Cyrus G. Wood and run in connection with his mill in Quinapoxet.

In May, 1916, a spark from a locomotive set a grass fire which spread so rapidly that before it could be checked, the mills and five or six nearby houses were totally destroyed.

## DAWSONVILLE

The Moss Brook Mill, at Dawsonville, formerly called Delaneyville, was, prior to 1854, the property of Colonel Samuel Damon, and was originally a shingle mill. It was then disposed of to Benjamin Franklin, who manufactured forks of all kinds there. In 1862 or 1863, the property was sold to Ashworth and Day. Mr. Day soon took it alone and manufactured shoddy for several years. The first shoddy made in town, was made here, "a company of Englishmen with machinery imported from England" having been engaged in the business as early as 1857. In 1866, it was owned by



Kimball and Talbot; in 1867, by John O'Brien; in 1868, by Crompton and Dawson of Worcester, who were engaged in the mill supply business. In 1873, Mr. Charles Dawson became the sole owner of the property.

At first satinets and melton flannels were made, then fancy cheviots and cassimeres, and the mill's reputation for "quality goods" became such that night and day "shifts" were unable to supply the demand.

For more than twenty-five years, Mr. Dawson continued at the head of this business adding from year to year new equipment, and building new homes to accomodate the increased number of workers.

He served the town as selectman for several years.

The Dawson home was the large house at the junction of Salisbury and Main Streets, now owned and occupied by the Frank H. Cates, Mrs. Cate, being a granddaughter of Mr. Dawson.

In 1910, he sold the mill property and it was in the hands of the Darling Woolen Mill Co. for a number of years. Persons holding an interest here were Albert H. Stone, Frank H. Viele and William Battye.

From 1915 to 1926, when it was taken by the Metropolitan District Water Commission, it was owned by the Holden Woolen Company.

In 1922, the property comprised a group of frame and brick mill buildings, one, four family house, six, two family houses, and six cottages, valued in 1926 at \$34,000.

All buildings of this village were on the east side of the highway. The H. H. Munger house near the junction of Newell Road was the oldest in the village.

The older group of houses were south of the present swimming pool, and the mill buildings were at the rear of the pool.

North from the pool were a number of attractive homes built more recently, six of them during 1919.

Nearly opposite Newell Road stands the Lindquist formerly the Paddock Homestead.

### SPRINGDALE

In 1864 and 1865, a stone dam, eighty-five feet long, later extended to one hundred and fifteen feet, was built across the Quinapoxet River at the site of the Springdale Mill. A two-set wooden mill was then erected, but was burned in 1875. A stone shoddy mill had been put up in 1874, and in 1876, a four-set stone mill was built by G. J. Smith. In 1892, James Dorr, after making extensive repairs began manufacturing satinets there. This business was continued until 1905, when the property was taken over by the Metropolitan Water Commission. At that time the village consisted of a mill, a picker house, stock house, two barns, a four tenement house, four, two tenement houses, and water power, all valued at \$19,605.

### CANADA MILLS

This property was located on the Quinapoxet River, beyond Unionville, towards West Boylston, and was known as the L. M. Harris Manufacturing Company from 1870 until it was taken by the Metropolitan Water Commission in 1899. At that time the value of the property including shoddy mill, store house and water power was \$5,500.



## AUSTIN'S MILLS

The mills built by Asa and Ira Broad on Broad Street, later passed into the hands of William Howe and Martin V. B. Jefferson, and from 1871 to 1877, were run by the firm of Howe, Jefferson and Austin.

Waldo E. Austin came to Holden in 1864, to work in the Broad mills, where he became a junior partner, later buying out the interest of his partners, and using the mills as a basis for his business as a contractor and builder.

In addition to his business activities he served the town as Selectman, member of school committee, and as a member of the board of trustees of Gale Free Library.





## *Chapter XI*

# Business in Holden

---

## STORES

Tradition states that the first store in town was kept near the Bullard place in Chaffins. From town records we learn that Samuel Damon kept store at an early date, and with the exception of two years, this business was continued by the family for more than one hundred years. Town records state that "June, 1779, came to reside in Holden, Samuel Dammon and Abigail Dammon his wife—they came from Medway in the County Suffolk."

They made the trip from Medway on horseback. Madam "Dammon" and a negro servant riding on the same horse, while their household goods followed in an oxcart, requiring two days for the passage.

Their first dwelling in Holden was one mile east of of the center village, and here their children were born.

In early days "that Noted House in said Town Known by the Name of the Old Publick Meeting House" stood on the present site of the Damon house in Holden center. This was advertised to be sold at Public Auction "at the House of Lem'l Abbot in Holden on March ye 16th, 1791."

The sale and removal of the Meeting House made way for the original Damon dwelling which was built at once. Adjoining this, on the east, was erected a small low building, used as a store. Both store and dwelling were first occupied by one Miles, who sold to Samuel Damon, senior, about the year 1800. Mr. Damon was

connected with the business until his death in 1851. Part of the time there were partners and it was run under the firm names of Damon and Bartlett, Boyden and Goodell, Damon and Knowlton, Knowlton and Allen, Charles L. Knowlton, and Augustus F. Damon.

Samuel Damon's son, Colonel Samuel Damon, was associated with him as a partner after 1810, and continued in charge of this store for forty-five years. In 1828, he built a cotton factory in Phillipston, and in 1831, he erected the mill at Quinapoxet. Later, he became owner of mills at North Woods, Drydenville, Dawsonville, North Oxford and the Trowbridge Mill in Worcester. These he operated for many years. He was also an extensive dealer in real estate. He was always prominent in the affairs of the town, having filled many important offices, including that of Treasurer for thirteen years, and he was four times elected to the Legislature.

July 4, 1810, he married Alony Chenery, daughter of Dr. Isaac Chenery, and to them were born nine children. His son, Major Isaac Damon, continuing his father's interest in town affairs, served as Town Clerk for twenty-two years, and as an assessor for twenty-eight years.

Others who kept store at the Damon stand were:

Joseph H. Gleason, Paul Wadsworth and Son, Joseph H. Gleason and William H. Drury in company, Charles F. Parker. In 1868, it was sold to William H. Walker, in 1878, to Edwin H. Streeter, who was succeeded by Albert A. Cobbett, who sold in 1890, to the Holden Store Company, with Mr. Oscar Phillips



as proprietor. Mr. Phillips was succeeded by Wallace F. Lyon, who sold to Allen and Gleason in 1900.

At three o'clock on the morning of May 16, 1901, the buildings were totally destroyed by fire of incendiary origin.

## FALES BUILDING

### *Community Stores Co.*

About 1840, the building opposite Maple Street was erected by Ethan Davis, Senior. It was first used as a boot and shoe manufactory. Beginning in 1844, Avery Davis ran a general store there for eight years. In 1852, he sold to Nichols and Bryant and in 1856, it was purchased by Joseph H. Gleason.

In 1865, a stock of goods was put in by Alfred Morse with Samuel W. Armington in charge, who took the business in 1868, and carried it on until 1877. He was succeeded by Fred H. Fales who ran it for some years in connection with the post office. Others doing business there were: Loring W. Hubbard, Atherton and Muzzy, Jesse Allen and George H. Little.

In 1929, the store was remodelled under the supervision of Bertram S. Newell, Administrator of the estate of Emily A. Fales, and on November 7th of that year the Community Stores Co. opened a market and grocery store.

The following have been managers of the store: H. W. Graves, Henry Prendergast, James M. Fletcher, H. Wells, Ray Holland, Harry W. Ostberg (eight years), Donald Harvey, Frederic Flemings.

## POST OFFICE BUILDING

In 1882, this building was the meat market of Frank Carter.

In the fall of 1889, Samuel W. Armington put in a stock of goods and conducted a store in connection with the post office.

During the sixteen years in which he served as Town Clerk, Mr. Armington had intensive work done in reclaiming, copying and indexing old town records and statistics that they might be "placed in an accessible shape for consultation by our citizens and by any others who might wish to acquaint themselves with the information which they contain."

## WARREN BUILDING

### *Kelton's Market*

The original store building near the corner of Main and Reservoir Streets, owned by Berthier Warren was moved from the rear of a house on Main Street near Lovell Road.

From 1901 to 1906, Jesse Allen and Walter W. Gleason did business there under the name of Allen and Gleason.

They sold to Edward E. Howe who ran a store there for twenty years.

Over the store was the wheelwright and carriage painting shop of George Boyden.

Wallace Lyon and his successor, Arthur Kirby, conducted meat markets and stores here for some years.

In 1918, the store was taken over by E. Frank Kelton,



who has run it continuously since that time, the building having been enlarged and modernized.

The business is now run under the name of Kelton's market.

Mr. Kelton's death occurred in 1941, but the business continues under the same group who have served the people of Holden for so many years: F. Boyden Kelton, Wallace B. McInnis, Elizabeth (Kelton) McInnis, Earl J. Gibbons, Elmer P. Oliver, and Vernon E. Oliver.

### *Holden Spa*

The former Milo Bassett house, the second below the post office building was first occupied as a store when Frank H. Rogers purchased the property, made alterations, and conducted a "Variety Store" there for some years. About 1923, he sold to Mrs. Helen Kuros, who ran the store for a time, and later the business was continued by the following: Carpenter and Atherton, Rodney F. Hunt, Mr. Alfred Swift, Stella and Nola Bergstrand, and from 1935 to the present time by Ralph A. Tymeson who conducts a general store under the name of the Holden Spa.

### *First National Store*

In 1923, Joseph J. Raymond erected a store building on Main Street across from Laurelwood Road.

This was occupied at once by a First National Store, which did business until 1939.

The store was in charge of James Gleason during that time.

### *Holden Pharmacy*

In 1925, Mr. Raymond built an addition to his store for the accomodation of a drug store, and on August of that year, a modern, up-to-date drug store was opened there by James G. Elkind.

Harry A. Jolly, Registered Pharmacist, has been clerk there since 1928.

### *Casey's Store*

In 1925, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walker opened a store on Highland Street near the top of Temple Hill.

This they continued until 1929, when it was taken over by Thomas Kennedy. After his death, Mrs. Kennedy continued on until her marriage four years ago to John F. Casey, when Mr. Casey became a partner in the business. This has been enlarged to include meat and general store supplies.

### *Red and White Store*

In 1927, Louis N. Tuckwell opened a store on Holden Street, near the Worcester line. This he continued for a number of years selling to Leland G. Wilcox who operated it for a time and then opened a Red and White Store, September 17, 1928, on the opposite side of the street, his present location.

### *Ellis' Market*

In May, 1929, Roy A. Ellis opened a store on South Main Street, between Salisbury Street and Bailey Road.



Patronage increased steadily and in 1937, the building was enlarged to accommodate a full line of groceries and other equipment necessary to fulfill the requirements of a general store.

### *Holden Hardware Company*

November 24, 1934, Louis A. Baker and George E. Allen, both of Holden, organized the above company and opened, in the Warren Building, a splendidly equipped hardware store, which has been in operation since that time.

### *Clover Farm Store*

Since August, 1939, Mr. Adelard Belec has conducted a grocery store in the Raymond store, formerly occupied by the First National.

### *Hashey's Store*

A grocery store has been conducted by Frank C. Hashey for sixteen years at the junction of Wachusett and Manning Streets.

## JEFFERSON

In 1838, the store at the "West Village" was offered for sale by Eunice A. White. It was later occupied by several members of the Davis family.

In 1856, it was in the hands of Alfred Morse, who sold to Edward W. Merrick.

In 1882, it was purchased by James F. Putnam, who carried on the store until his death in 1890, after which it was continued by his widow, Mrs. Sophia Putnam.

Other store owners in Jefferson were: J. W. Wheeler, Stephen T. Cole and Stillman F. Morse, who in the '90's ran a general store near the corner of High Street, opposite the Eagle Lake House.

In former days, at this place, the Hubbardston and Barre stage stopped to change horses before continuing its journey. Mr. Morse served the town on the board of selectmen, overseers of the poor, and as auditor, and was elected a member of the House of Representatives in 1892.

The Morse home was the house at the junction of North Main and Causeway Streets, today owned by William J. Nawn.

### *Harrington's Market*

This store on the corner of Princeton and Quinapoxet Streets in Jefferson, was built by Thomas Prendergast and Frank Marsh in 1870. In 1873, Mr. Prendergast sold his interest to Charles Marsh and it was run as Marsh Brothers for five years.

Following this, for four years, it was operated by Charles Carter.

In 1883, the market was taken over by Dennis W. Harrington, who while operating the store, also went from house to house selling meat from his butcher's cart. For five years he slaughtered his own cattle at the Marsh slaughter house in Jefferson. Mr. Harrington peddled meat for 41 years without missing a day.

Mr. Patrick Dowd, a clerk with Mr. Harrington for 40 years, is still serving customers at the store.

Since 1932, a grocery store has been maintained in addition to the meat market.









MRS. HOLDEN, MAY 4TH CELEBRATION



Mr. Harrington died in 1941, and the business is now owned and operated by his son, Raymond J. Harrington.

Harrington's Market is the oldest established business in Holden, and the oldest meat market in Worcester County.

In addition to his business activities, Mr. Harrington held town offices and took an active part in town affairs.

*G. S. & J. A. Holden — L. G. Petts & Co. — Rivers Bros.*

In May, 1875, Gustavus S. Holden opened a general store on Princeton Street, just above the Jefferson mill, in a building erected for that purpose by Howe and Jefferson.

Five years later he was joined by his brother, James A. and the firm name of G. S. and J. A. Holden was taken.

From 1891 to 1897, it was run by Lyman G. Petts and Company.

In 1899, it was taken over by Edward H. and Fred C. Rivers, who, under the name of Rivers Bros., ran a grocery and dry goods store there until 1927, when Fred C. withdrew and the business was continued by Edward H. until 1931.

*Sequin's and Coldwell's Stores*

In 1904, Napoleon Sequin opened a store on North Main Street, opposite the Eagle Lake House, and this was continued until 1931, most of the time being run under the name of Napoleon Sequin and Son.

Since 1939, a grocery and general store with a meat market has been conducted there by Douglas Coldwell.

### *Jarvis' Store*

In 1932, Almas J. Jarvis opened a store on North Main Street, Jefferson, and up to the present time has continued there the operation of a fully equipped general store which includes a supply of meats and groceries.

## QUINAPOXET

The store at Quinapoxet located on the North corner of Mill and Wachusett Streets, was erected and owned in connection with the factory in that village. It was occupied successively by A. P. Sampson, Cuthbertson and Crawshaw, Ira D. Bates, Johnson Brothers, Courtney Knapp, A. A. Cobbett, Feeley and Burns, and Gustaves S. and James A. Holden.

The last named occupied the store in 1887, and ran it for three years in connection with their business at Jefferson.

In 1890, they centered all their interests at Quinapoxet. In 1903, James A. conducted the business alone, selling in 1904, to William D. Leonard who carried it on until 1917. In 1922, it was being run by Dunker Bros. who continued business here until 1931.

## CHAFFINVILLE

### *Chaffins Store*

In 1903, August Johnson erected a building at the junction of Wachusett and Shrewsbury Streets and opened a general store there.



In 1908, the building was enlarged and market goods were added to the stock. Mr. Johnson has operated the store continuously since its opening up to the present time.

## DAWSON

### *Waite's Store*

At Dawson village, Harry G. and Sophia P. Waite opened a general store in 1919, and continued it for ten years after which, the village having been taken over by the Metropolitan Water Commission, all buildings were razed.

## BRICK YARDS

Whitney's History of Worcester County states, "There is a brick yard two miles and a half northeast of the meeting house, where are made annually sixty thousands of bricks." The yard here referred to was in the part of town soon after set off to West Boylston. Bricks were manufactured here for many years. Bricks were also made by Josiah Ball, and later by his son, Israel M. Ball, on the farm which had been occupied by the Ball family for many generations.

## BOOTS AND SHOES

In the earlier days another industry in Holden was the making of boots and shoes. "In 1837 five thousand eight hundred pairs of boots and ten thousand pairs of shoes were made here."

About 1840 the building occupied by the Community Store, in 1941, was erected by Ethan Davis, Sr.

It was soon occupied by Boyden, Goodell & Davis as a boot and shoe manufactory; a few goods of their own make being sold on the premises at retail.

## BLACKSMITH SHOPS

A generation or two ago the village smithy held an important place in every town.

Early locations in Holden were in the rear of the "Rogers house" on Boyden Road and on the west corner of Laurelwood Road, on the site where the house of Miss Jennie Hendricks is now located.

In addition to attending to the foot comfort of man's "four footed friends," the blacksmith was called upon to use his skill and ingenuity in a great variety of ways. Household utensils made so painstakingly, thus, were "handed down" from one generation to another.

In 1870, Mr. Amasa Howe ran a blacksmith shop opposite the Damon Memorial Building. A few years later this was acquired by Thomas Cleland who did business there for twenty years.

Mr. Cleland, in his shop, fashioned by hand, the iron fence which enclosed the yard of the house which he built on Maple Street (now the telephone exchange) and the fence which may be seen today, in front of the house on the west corner of Main Street and Lovell Road.

The elaborate fence surrounding the Cleland lot, and others in Grove Cemetery, were also wrought by him.

The shop of Mr. Artemas Bascom was located near the corner of Main Street and the High School drive, and here he served his patrons for more than forty



years. After the retirement of Mr. Bascom, Frank H. Stevens continued the business there for many years.

Close by was the wheelwright shop of George Boyden.

Probably the last blacksmith shop doing business in town was that of Frank C. Parker at Dawson.

When the shop closed in 1934 it was in charge of James McDonald.

### ICE BUSINESS

The cutting and harvesting of ice from Holden ponds was an important industry in town for more than fifty years.

Many farmers built small ice houses where they stored a supply for their own and neighborhood consumption.

As early as 1873 Fred L. Bryant built an ice house on the west side of Bryant's, later Parker's Pond, at the junction of Salisbury and South Main Streets, and began distributing ice in town. This he continued to do for thirty-seven years, selling in 1910 to Frank C. Parker, who enlarged the business so that his route included parts of Worcester and adjoining towns as well as Holden. Upon Mr. Parker's death in 1933 the business was carried on by his son, Harold C., until the ice houses were demolished by the 1938 hurricane.

In 1939 the land and water rights were purchased by the Metropolitan Water Commission.

In 1887 Charles H. Marsh built an ice house on Eagle Lake and continued business until 1902, when his sons, Harry and Dexter, took it over.

They sold in 1916 to Frank Brigham, who continued it until 1935.

In 1888 Peter Carr built an ice house on his pond on Princeton Street, formerly known as Maple Spring Pond, and began shipping ice to Brighton.

About 1900 he sold the business to Walker Ice Company of Worcester, who carried on the business for a number of years, until the ice houses were destroyed by fire.

In 1912 Walker Ice Company of Worcester built a large ice house on Quinapoxit Street from which 22,000 tons of ice were shipped yearly to New York State, and they also shipped it to nearly all parts of New England.

Business here was brought to a close with the burning of the ice house in July, 1935.

In 1931 Elmer Dimmick established a route in town, and ran it until June of the present year, obtaining his supply of ice from Walker Service Ice Co.

## TANNERIES

The first tannery in town was about half a mile west of the Center, at the foot of "Landlord Davis" hill and in the rear of the present Warren Homestead.

The exact date of its construction is not known. December 23, 1789, the tannery, together with seventeen acres of land, was sold by John Watson to Hemen Richardson. He was succeeded in the management by his son, Edward Richardson, from whom the tannery took the name by which it was often called. There was for many years a small tan yard on the Hall place in the south part of the town.

In 1825, John P. Maynard built a tannery at Eagleville across the road from the mill.



In 1838, this tannery passed into the hands of Waterman G. and Samuel Warren, who came to Holden that year from Ward, later called Auburn. At the end of ten years this partnership was dissolved, the business being continued there for about five years by Samuel Warren.

In 1850, Waterman G. Warren purchased the Richardson Tannery and carried on the business there until 1882, the last fifteen years in company with his son, Samuel.

In 1874, Waterman G. Warren, in partnership with his sons, Berthier and Henry W. under the firm name of B. and H. W. Warren and Co. erected a brick tannery at Holden center, a short distance north of the railroad station which furnished facilities for turning out its specialty, card leather, which was unsurpassed in the state.

In 1881, Samuel Warren became a partner and the firm name became W. G. Warren and Sons.

After the death of the father in 1886, the business was continued for nearly thirty years more as W. G. Warren's Sons.

The plant was then operated for a short time by A. Gorden and Sons of Boston.

The main buildings were burned to the ground in the early morning of June 19, 1917, thus bringing to an end the activities of one of the town's long established industries.

The site of the tannery, near the railroad, and so desirable as a business location, became the property of J. Stanley Holt who had the brick walls which still remained standing incorporated in a building which

today is used for storage in connection with his coal business.

## GARAGES AND GAS STATIONS

A new business interest appeared in Holden when Fred F. Taylor began the sale of gasoline in 1909.

He built a garage and "gasoline house" near his newly erected home on the east side of South Main Street, at the junction of Boyden Road, and continued the service for twelve years, selling the real estate and business in 1921 to Ernest W. Hicks who, today, operates the service station and garage and a refreshment stand on the opposite side of the street opened in 1934 as Hicks' Dairy. Here, his specialty of fried clams receives more than a local patronage.

With the steadily increasing use of the automobile new garages and gas stations have been established in various sections of the town and today the following locations in Holden provide this service for the public:

### *Sunnyside Garage*

About 1903 Arthur Faucher built a blacksmith shop on North Main Street, near the junction of Sunnyside, and operated it until 1912 when it was taken over by Walter B. Loring, who ran it until about 1920 when it was purchased by Mrs. George Nadeau after which it was run as a garage, George Johnstone being the first to install gas pumps.

Others doing business there have been George and Clayton Nadeau, Daniel W. Harrington, William Converse, Charles D. Hemenway and since 1938 M. H. Clarkson.



*Chaffins*

In 1922 Raffaele Zottoli erected a garage on the west side of South Main Street, a short distance south of the railroad bridge in Chaffins.

In 1930 the business was moved to its present location on the opposite side of the street. The service, which now includes dealership and the sale of fuel oil, has been operated by his sons, Joseph N. and Albert, since 1922.

*Blodgett*

In 1923 Verney E. Blodgett opened a gas station and garage in Jefferson on North Main Street, near the junction of Broad Street, and operated it until his death in 1941. Mr. Blodgett served as motorman on the Worcester and Holden trolley-line for twenty-four years.

*Harrington's*

In 1925 Frank C. Parker built a garage at the junction of Salisbury and South Main Streets on the site of the Bryant planing and cider mill.

This was run by Washburn and Graham, then by Kohlstrom Brothers until in 1931 it was taken over by Daniel J. Harrington, who, in business since 1923, ran the Sunnyside Garage for a short time before opening the garage and sales service station which he now operates on South Main Street.

*Towle's*

Harry E. Oslund erected a gas station and refreshment stand in 1925 on the west side of South Main

Street, about a mile from the city line, and operated it until 1928 when it was taken over by George Joseph. Following him it was carried on by Newell W. Prouty, Clayton H. Adams, John W. Stuart, John Jenson and since 1935 by Frank B. Towle.

Mitchell Shemuth is proprietor of a gas station on South Main Street, nearly opposite Hawthorne Road.

### *Hachey*

The store and filling station today conducted by Frank C. Hachey, at the junction of Wachusett and Manning Streets in Quinapoxet, was established by him in 1925.

### *Williams*

The stone gas station on Wachusett Street, a short distance north from the junction of Manning, has been run by Rose A. Williams since 1929 until her death, the present year.

### *Holden Center*

In 1936 Albert Zottoli erected a filling station on the southeast corner of Main and Reservoir Streets, in front of the Old Abbott Tavern.

February, 1937, he sold to the present owners, Socony-Vacuum Oil Co.

The first person to operate the station was Robert C. Rose, who remained there from December 29, 1936, until December 10, 1940, when he sold to T. Warren Kingdon, the present owner.



### *Holt Coal Company*

In 1917 J. Stanley Holt established a coal business at Dawson which he resumed in 1919 after having served two years in the World War.

In 1923 he purchased the interests of the Marsh Coal Company and moved to his present location near the railroad track on Sunnyside, where he continues this service to local patrons.

### *Harrington*

The business of D. Frank Harrington, of Fairview Avenue, Jefferson, dealer in coal, coke and fuel oils, was established in 1923.

### *Holden Trap Rock Co.*

A new industry was formulated in Holden when a deposit of trap rock was discovered in Jefferson, in 1932, on the farm of Franklin C. Hubbard, by Edward J. O'Connor of Lowell.

This was located near the state road, about two miles from the Rutland town line.

Immediate plans were put into action for the utilization of this igneous rock whose formation dates back long periods before the glacier.

Mr. O'Connor purchased forty-five acres of the former "pasture land," installed machinery thereon, and shortly trucks were transporting this finely crushed stone to towns and cities throughout Worcester County.

In 1939, the property was purchased by Hattie M. Gray, of Oldtown, Maine, who now operates the business under the name of Holden Trap Rock Company.

### *Holden Lumber and Supply Company*

The Holden Lumber and Supply Company on Woodland Road has been conducted by Elmer J. Johnson since 1934.

### *Holden Sand and Gravel Company*

This business, located on Union Street, was organized by Edward Migdelaney in 1935 and serves local customers and others throughout Worcester County.

## NEWSPAPERS

### *The Holden Enterprise*

In 1887, this large four page paper was being published by Wood Brothers, "every Friday Morning," its Editor and Manager being E. C. Hawkes.

It gave news items of Holden and its villages, and of surrounding towns, with some world happenings, all being interspersed with elaborate advertising of a great variety of subjects.

### *The Holden Times*

September 2, 1922, C. Arthur Pierce, a young man who grew up in Holden, began a weekly publication of *The Holden Times*, an eight page paper, (6 x 7½") covering the "news" of the villages of Jefferson, Chaffins, Dawsons, and Quinapoxet as well as that of Holden Center, each number also containing a local business directory and local advertisements with a number of items of world interest.



In 1923 and 1924, it was made a four page paper, size  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ ."

The last issue was September 20, 1924.

### *Holden District News*

On October 20, 1932, Mr. Nason H. Arnold, of Holden, established the *Holden District News*, a paper covering a more extended territory.

Its publication was suspended March 16, 1933.

### *The Enterprise*

This was a four page paper published during 1936-37, by Frederick W. Hiller of Barre, and covered news of the towns of Holden, Rutland, Paxton, Princeton, West Boylston, and Sterling.

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

### *Frank H. Miles Co.*

The Ira Broad estate was purchased by Edwin J. Miles in October, 1884, and in 1896 he established the business which has served the people of Holden since then up to the present day.

Upon the death of the father, his son, Frank H., took over the business in 1900, and conducted it until his death, when in 1928 it was continued by his widow, Delia T. (O'Day) Miles, who in 1937 formed a partnership with her son, Adin F. Miles, and this continues under the name of Frank H. Miles Company.





## Chapter XII

### Hotels

---

“The first house of public entertainment in town was kept by John Child, near the Bullard Place. For forty years ‘Landlord Paul Davis’ kept tavern in a building on the summit of the hill overlooking Eagleville. Here was born his son, Paul Davis, Jr., and his twelve children. Paul Davis, Jr., was connected with the state militia. He succeeded his father in the office of town clerk, which he held for thirty-seven years. He was also treasurer, selectman, assessor, and representative. Too much can’t be said of his uprightness, integrity, and faithfulness in every walk of life.”

#### *Abbott Tavern*

“This famous old building was erected in 1763, and was occupied as a Tavern more than a hundred years. The house was kept by Abbots of three successive generations, and was all this time kept in the hands of the family, except for two years, when it was leased to Samuel Davis. It has been said, ‘It is no exaggeration to state that Abbott’s Hotel was known from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean.’ The house was first kept by John Abbott,† from whom it passed to his son, Captain Lemuel Abbott, whose son, Major Chenery

---

† May 20, 1763. “Town voted to Build a new pound of Stone and Voted to set the pound at the south End of Mr. John Abbots shoop or Cole House and Voted ten pounds to Build the Same.”

Abbott, in turn succeeded him in the management of the hotel." In 1843 the estate contained about 60 acres of land which extended as far as the present Bailey Road. One of the giant pine trees cut on the tract yielded 1,000 feet of timber.

"To Colonel Jarvis Abbott Holden is under great and peculiar obligations. In his old age, tree-planting became almost a mania with him, and to this fact, we owe the well grown shade trees which now adorn both the common and the old cemetery, and much more of the foliage which so beautifully embowers the village."

For many years Austin C. Rice was owner of the Abbott Tavern property.

His daughters, Jennie, Isabel and Margery, taught for many years in the Holden public schools.

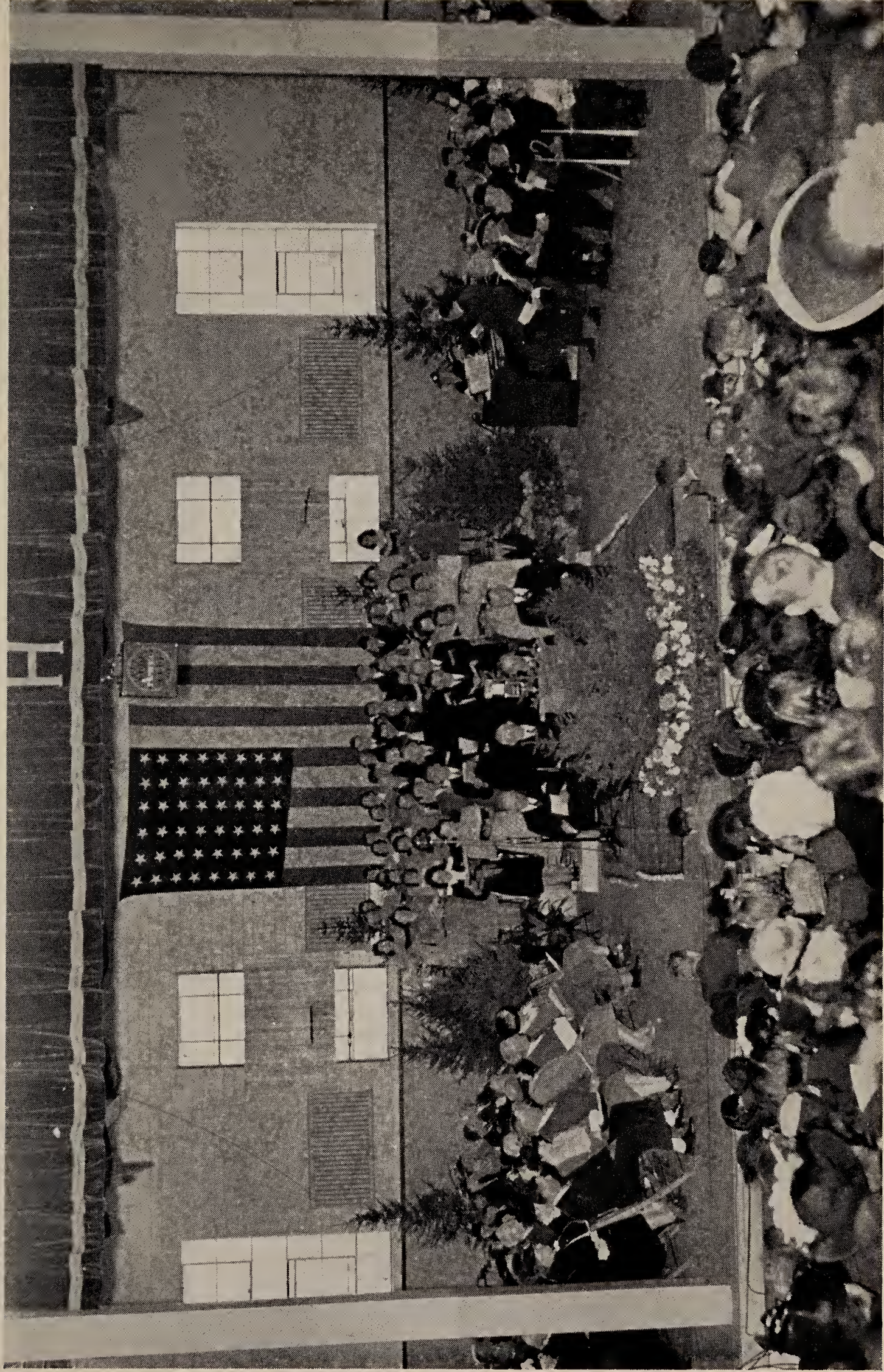
February 3, 1935, his heirs, Isabel M. Lyon, Nellie E. Sheldon and Silence E. Bush, sold the estate to Albert Zottoli.

In 1875 the large brick dwelling on the corner of Maple and Main Streets, built by Lemuel Davis, son of Rev. Joseph Davis, was opened as a hotel, by Amasa Howe, under the name of the Central House. Squire Lemuel, as he was called, served the town as postmaster in 1826-27 and as selectman for five years. Among Mr. Howe's successors in the management were Lewis F. Hubbard, John M. Welch, Charles W. Foote and James C. Allen.

It was used as a Community House for a number of years.

In July, 1922, it was purchased by the Holden Masonic Club, now the Holden Trowel Club, who occupy it at the present time.





MAY 4TH CELEBRATION IN HIGH SCHOOL







*Brick City or Eagleville Hotel**Eagle Lake House*

A hotel was opened many years ago at Eagleville by John P. Maynard. Among others Ethan Davis and Peter S. Winn managed it at different times. Previous to 1865 it was controlled by Dustin Hall who sold to Edward F. Witt. Other owners of the real estate were Martin V. B. Jefferson, Edward F. Merrick and Lyman G. Petts. The following persons have also been in charge there: George Wright, Myron Kennan, Elijah Kennan, Sparrow Crosby, Alfred J. Kirby, Calvin Underwood, A. A. Whitney and W. Muzzy. When purchased by Mr. Petts the name was changed from the Brick City to the Eagleville Hotel.

Later it was called the Eagle Lake Hotel and today its sign reads Eagle Lake House, Est. 1812.

The earliest record found of Mr. Petts' ownership of this hotel was in 1879 and it continued in his name or in that of his wife, Mrs. Maria N. Petts, most of the time until 1907.

From 1909-1912 it was owned by Fred L. Sturtevant. In 1912 it passed into the hands of David S. Doran who ran it until 1926.

In 1928 it was purchased by the present owner, William J. Nawn.

Twice it was damaged by fire. March 24, 1939, a disastrous fire occurred which destroyed part of the first floor and sixteen rooms on the upper story.

Three men asleep on the second floor jumped to safety after being aroused by the barking of Duke, Mr. Nawn's valuable pedigreed dog, who lost his life in the fire.

Rebuilt, the attractive building of light colored brick, facing Morse Square, occupies the site of the original structure erected there in 1812.

### *Mount Pleasant House*

On the hill at the right as one passes through the village of Jefferson on the road to Rutland, stands the historic brick house where Ethan Davis was born. Two brothers came here to work, and one of them, James Prendergast, especially loved the fine old house, and its surroundings, and dreamed of some day calling the place his own. In the course of time his ambition was realized, and in 1888 he opened the Mount Pleasant House with six guests.

The number increased yearly under the management of the father and then under that of his son William, who took an active part in town affairs. From time to time additions have been made to the hotel and a number of years ago when the ancient barn was torn down, the hand hewn boards held together with wooden pegs, were used to form a part of the dining hall.

Since the death of William in 1922 his widow, Annie C. Prendergast, has continued the business, and today the grandchildren of former patrons are coming here to enjoy the hospitality of the hotel established here so many years ago.

### *Elmwood House*

In 1872 John Rivers purchased from R. F. Leland the eighty acre farm located at the corner of Princeton Street and Elmwood Avenue, near the shore of Quinapoxet Lake.



About 1900 Mr. and Mrs. Rivers opened the house for summer guests, having increased the number of rooms to fifty, and a hall was built for use when entertainments and dances were given.

After the death of the parents, it was carried on by a son, William, and a daughter, Annie, then by Annie Rivers alone until her death in 1932, then by another brother, George E., who sold it in 1938, the estate then comprising one hundred fifty-seven acres.

This place was also for some years the home of James H. Fiske whose daughter, Clara, went to Worcester daily by train for pipe organ practice that she might qualify for the position as organist at the Congregational Church. She served in that capacity for fifteen years and was for five years organist at the Baptist Church.

She married Benn M. Chamberlain, son of Sumner Chamberlain, whose farm in the south part of Holden was among those taken by the Worcester Water Commission.

The Chamberlain family were active in town offices and in various organizations in the town.

### *The Jefferson*

In 1902 Thomas F. Maguire of Boston erected a large hotel on the west side of Kendall, then Dodd Road, on an elevation overlooking Eagle Lake.

The hotel, valued at \$8,000, was destroyed by fire in 1904.

Later, near this location, the Street Railway Company operated a toboggan slide down the hill and across Eagle Lake.

This was well patronized by local and out-of-town lovers of outdoor sports.

### *Summit House*

This was located east of the Fitchburg railroad track in Jefferson, on the top of a slightly elevation long known as "The Summit."

In 1870 the house and many surrounding acres of farm land were owned by Welcome Aldrich.

About 1904 Ella F. Nawn, after making alterations, opened the house for the accommodation of summer guests, and the finely located 45-room hotel continued to receive its patrons from year to year until destroyed by fire in 1915.

### *Rivers' Diner and Bowling Alley*

In 1927 Fred C. Rivers withdrew from the firm of Rivers Bros., where he had been engaged in the grocery business since 1899, and opened the "Rivers' Diner" which has been operated since in connection with his bowling alley on South Main Street, opposite the Jefferson mills buildings.



## *Chapter XIII*

# Public Utilities

---

## RAILROADS

Boston, Barre and Gardner. This was the first railroad opened for passenger service in Holden.

It was chartered in 1869.

An excursion was held July 4, 1871, but the road was not opened for traffic until September 4, 1871.

Holden's investment in its stock was \$44,800, that being five per cent of its valuation. The railroad was later extended from its junction with the Worcester and Nashua Railroad to the Union Station in Worcester, and also northward to Winchendon.

"Unfortunately the railroad was financially weak and after a time was absolutely crippled."

In 1876, the early train to Worcester, so important to residents of Holden, was withdrawn, and not until 1883 was it restored.

This was a serious detriment to the interests of the town.

During this period, George H. Turner, ran a four horse bus from Holden Center to Worcester to accommodate the early commuters who returned home by train.

There being no income from the investment, on July 1, 1885, the stock was exchanged for stock in the Fitchburg Railroad Co., which had become the lessee of the Boston, Barre and Gardner Railroad, at the rate of ten shares of the latter for one of the former.

The Fitchburg stock was soon sold at the rate of \$125 per share.

There were five stations in Holden—Chaffins, Dawsons, Holden, Jefferson, and North Woods, the first two and the last being flag stations. George Henry Stearns, was connected with this road and the Jefferson station from its opening in 1871 to 1900.

The Fitchburg Railroad Co. was consolidated with the Boston and Maine Railroad in 1919.

In Chaffins and Dawsons the agency opened in 1906 and was discontinued in 1913.

In Holden the agency and sale of tickets was discontinued in 1928. Jefferson is still in service.

From July 1, 1900, the road was operated by the Boston and Maine Railroad as Lessee of the Fitchburg Railroad.

### *Massachusetts Central Railroad*

This road running from Boston, and opened December 1, 1881, crossed the town from east to west. It had two stations in town, Quinapoxet and Jefferson, the latter being the terminus until 1887, when the road was opened through to Northampton.

At one time, in Jefferson, there was a Y track so that cars could be transferred from one railroad to the other. This was removed probably between 1892 and 1896.

The Central Massachusetts Railroad was merged with the Boston and Maine Railroad by sale February 20, 1902. Passenger service on the line between Oakdale and Northampton was discontinued April 24, 1932. Abandonment of the Central Massachusetts



Branch between Oakdale and Wheelwright was authorized by the Interstate Commerce Commission on November 7, 1939.

During 1940 and 1941, the tracks were removed, and the substantial bridge near the junction of Union and Highland Streets was demolished and the highway was restored to its former location.

This railroad was an important factor in the lives of Holden citizens a generation ago, but already the forces of nature have partially eradicated all traces of the curved course which, for so many years, marked its passage through the town.

### *Worcester and Holden Street Railway*

The franchise of the Worcester and Holden Street Railway Company was signed and accepted February 2, 1901.

Among those serving on its Board of Directors were, Jerome Marble, Otis E. Putnam, Henry W. Warren, James E. Fuller, A. B. R. Sprague, Stephen Salisbury, Charles C. Milton, and Daniel C. Miles.

James E. Fuller was the first president of the road, others, serving thus were, A. B. R. Sprague and Francis H. Dewey.

In 1910, E. S. Douglas was its clerk. The road was financed by Albion R. Clapp, whose son Albion B. was also an official of the company.

Although not a financial success, the road played an important part in the development of the town from June 20, 1903, when the first shining dark blue car, carrying Holden town officials, made its initial trip

over the road, until 1928 when its service was discontinued.

In place of the horse and carriage, or infrequent trains, townspeople greatly appreciated the regular hourly trolley schedule. This led many commuters to buy or build homes in Holden, and young people took advantage of the opportunity to continue their studies in Worcester schools.

Frequently, in the spring and fall, Holden trolleys had "standing room only" as large lettered signs on the front of the cars stated that arbutus or laurel were "blooming on the hills of Holden," also during the winter when crowds of young people rode to Jefferson to enjoy the fine toboggan slides and other winter sports.

In 1907, the Worcester and Holden Street Railway was sold to the Worcester Consolidated on a basis of two shares for one of the consolidated.

The trolley route from the city was the same as that of the present Street Railway bus line until reaching North Worcester, when it turned to the left below the railroad track, passed the red brick house, curving sharply then to go under the railroad track.

At Woods Avenue it merged again with Holden Street, then thickly wooded, and followed this street to the foot of the hill in Chaffins, where it turned to the right, passing through the fields, and meeting the highway again just beyond the Toombs place. The remainder of the way it followed the highway to its terminal at the Central Massachusetts Railroad Station.



The car barn was located on the left side of the highway just west of Kendall Road.

Strongly built shelters were erected at the junction of Salisbury and Main Streets, at Chaffins and at North Worcester.

Individuals in each district contributed toward the original cost of these buildings.

### *Worcester Street Railway Co.*

Worcester Street Railway busses started running through Holden to Jefferson July 25, 1925.

### *Prescott's Bus Line*

The beginning of bus service in Holden was in November, 1915, when Clarence E. Prescott, of Rutland, one of the pioneers in Worcester County bus transportation, began running a touring car between Rutland and Worcester.

In 1918, passenger busses carrying 18 to 24 passengers were first used.

In 1922, he extended the line to Barre, and in 1926, to Athol but discontinued this extension in 1938.

In May, 1941, Mr. Prescott announced the sale of Prescott's Bus Line, Inc., of Rutland, to Short Lines, Inc., of Providence.

The Short Line busses, running on nearly the same schedule as the Prescott line, began giving service to Holden, Jefferson, and Rutland on June 1, 1941.

### *Walker Bus Line*

May 15, 1935, Howard C. Walker who had been running school busses in town for 12 years, started

running busses from the Hubbardston and Gardner line through Princeton, Quinapoxet, Holden and Chaffins, to Worcester, thus furnishing transportation to a section not covered by any other line.

This service was discontinued April 27, 1940.

### *New England Telephone and Telegraph Company*

The first permit for the erection of telephone poles in Holden was given in 1886, and the first telephone in Holden was installed in the Jefferson mill with a line running to the railroad station in Holden Center.

In 1886, Dr. Clifford W. Stickney had a telephone installed in his home on Main Street, Holden.

In 1888, the first switch board in town was placed in the home of Miss Kate Dowd in Jefferson. This was later moved to the Jefferson post office.

The first exchange in Holden, a one position board, was in the home of George N. Jenkins, on Pleasant Street. Serving as operators during this period were, Misses Edith J. and Mary A. David.

About 1919, it was moved to the home of Frank Pond of Main Street, where it was a two position board with 150 subscribers.

Its next location was in the Cleland house on Maple Street.

This property was purchased in October, 1923, by Miss Edith M. Roper and has housed the Holden exchange since then.

It is now a three position board with 664 subscribers.



*Farmer's Lines*

September 5, 1904, the Board of Selectmen voted to permit the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. to erect and maintain poles and fixtures on the following streets: Shrewsbury, Wachusett, Branch, Salisbury, Poor Farm Road, Reservoir, Paxton Road, South Road, Highland, Union, Malden, Walnut, Pound Hill, Broad Streets, Muschopauge Road and Holbrook Hill Road.

Each year these lines were extended to give service to all parts of the town.

## POSTOFFICES

For many years after the settlement of Holden there was no post office within the borders of the town. In the Massachusetts Spy, during the early years, may be found advertisements of letters for Rev. Mr. Avery and other residents of Holden, which were lying in the post offices at Worcester and Leicester.

The first mail service in town was from the front room in the upper corner of the red house next below the present post office.

This room was hired by William Nichols who conducted a postal delivery service on horseback between here and Boston.

Later the room was hired by Benjamin Davis, and the first post office in town was installed there.

Appointment of postmasters in Holden have been made as follows:

*Holden*

Benjamin Davis	February 21, 1815, Established
Merrill Davis	April 3, 1819
Lemuel Davis	March 20, 1826
Merrill Davis	January 28, 1828
Dennis Davis	March 29, 1832
Charles Chaffin	May 20, 1835
Avery Davis	June 2, 1849
Caleb Kendall, Jr.	December 9, 1852
Charles Chaffin	August 5, 1853
Ethan Davis	June 29, 1861
Samuel W. Armington	September 27, 1866
Patrick A. McLaughlin	October 26, 1885
Mary F. McLaughlin	September 30, 1887
Samuel W. Armington	May 14, 1889
Henry C. Chenery	October 2, 1893
Samuel W. Armington	April 29, 1897
Charles H. Agar	October 2, 1912
Everett H. Moore	January 8, 1913
Loring W. Hubbard (Acting)	July 11, 1916
Walter B. Loring	January 30, 1917
Albert F. Newell	March 18, 1919
Mrs. Mary T. Harrington	April 1, 1936

*Jefferson*

This office was established as Jeffersonville.

Martin V. B. Jefferson

August 29, 1873, Established

William J. Prendergast November 17, 1885

Edward W. Merrick April 29, 1889



The name of this office was changed to Jefferson, February 19, 1891.

Edward W. Merrick	February 19, 1891
William J. Prendergast	December 22, 1893
Miss Katherine A. Dowd	April 7, 1897
(Name changed by marriage to Mrs. Katherine A. Gain and reappointed July 6, 1909.)	
Miss Ella M. Harrington	December 6, 1910

### *Quinapoxet*

(Called for a time Woodville)

Cyrus G. Wood	February 7, 1882, Established
John F. Wood	April 22, 1898
William D. Leonard	January 27, 1915

This office was discontinued July 15, 1916, and re-established on May 20, 1921.

George E. Dunker	May 20, 1921
------------------	--------------

This office was finally discontinued November 29, 1930. Mail was ordered sent to Jefferson.

### *Holden, Massachusetts*

Rural Route, No. 1—Established July 1, 1902.

<i>Carriers of Record</i>	<i>Date of Appointment</i>
Albert F. Newell	July 1, 1902
L. Mark Chase	November 1, 1902
Hattie L. Chase (Temp.)	July 1, 1906
Albert F. Newell	September 15, 1906
Herman E. Moore (Temp.)	July 17, 1916

William H. Ramsdell	February 1, 1917
Russell E. Cobb (Temp.)	March 5, 1918
Charles W. Moulton (Temp.)	March 9, 1918
Ellsworth F. Plimpton	July 16, 1918
H. Leonard Allen (Temp.)	February 5, 1919
Martin P. Johanson	January 19, 1920
Randolph F. Kohlstrom (Temp.)	November 1, 1921
Richard R. Dockham (Temp.)	November 1, 1921
Lewis S. Toombs (Temp.)	January 3, 1922
Alfred B. Drawbridge	February 6, 1922
Present carrier for route.	

*Jefferson, Massachusetts*

Rural Route, No. 1—Established September 15, 1904.

<i>Carriers of Record</i>	<i>Date of Appointment</i>
Homer D. Stearns	September 15, 1904
Everett M. Stearns	November 1, 1916
John F. Dickman (Temp.)	April 16, 1923
Rowland W. Cobb (Temp.)	February 1, 1924
Edmund J. Joslin	March 28, 1924
Present carrier for route.	

ALDEN HYDRAULIC LABORATORY

*Worcester Polytechnic Institute*

Mr. Leslie J. Hooper has kindly written the following description of the Alden Laboratory —

The Alden Hydraulic Laboratory of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute is located in Chaffins or Chaffinsville. It includes several buildings, ponds and arti-



ficial channels. The three principal ponds have a total area of about 150 acres to which the Laboratory owns the flowage rights. The grounds of the Laboratory have a total area of 238 acres.

The main laboratory building was erected in 1894, on the site of an old woolen mill owned by the Chaffin family. The laboratory site was selected by Prof. George I. Alden, then head of the Mechanical Engineering Department and for whom the laboratory is named. The land was donated to the Institute by Stephen Salisbury, 3rd. The original building was replaced with a larger structure in 1925, and this was further enlarged in 1930, 1936, and 1937. The main building is used for the instruction of students, commercial testing and research. The commercial research includes the calibration of pitot tubes and Venturi meters and the testing of models of hydraulic structures such as dams, spillways, penstocks, rivers and channels. The research work is mainly directed toward the study of flowing water and instruments to determine the rate of flow. The Salt Velocity Method of measuring the discharge of water in large conduits was developed at this laboratory by Prof. Charles M. Allen.

The low head laboratory was built in 1910, on the site of an old grist and shoddy mill. It has been enlarged twice since then and is now used principally for the testing of water wheels.

In 1908, a current meter rating station or revolving boom was installed experimentally in the middle pond beside the county road. This boom was constructed

of steel in its present form in 1910, and reconstructed in 1938.

In 1912, it was used for a series of tests of full size airplane propellers. More recently it has been used for the calibration of ship logs which are used by the Navy to measure the speed of ships.

In 1930, the William H. Fairbanks estate was acquired by the Institute. The westerly house of the two was torn down since it was in such poor state of repair. The southern house was repaired and remodelled for the use of the Civil Engineering students of the Institute in their surveying practice.

During most of the 47 years of its existence, the laboratory has been under the direction of Prof. Charles M. Allen. With him at various times have been Messrs. David Gallup, J. C. Harvey, A. K. Ingraham, O. H. Dodkin, C. W. Hubbard and L. J. Hooper. The laboratory has an average of seven men on its staff. The present value of the real estate and apparatus is estimated at about \$200,000.

## MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE

July 2, 1924, Massachusetts State Police, Troop C, removed from Paxton to the former Dr. Clifford W. Stickney house on Main Street, near Lovell Road.

In charge at that time were, Lieutenant Roy E. Kimball and Sergeant William J. Hackett. Also in service were, Patrolmen, James V. Kell, Thomas P.







WTAG STATION



Hannon, William F. Fitzmaurice, Oliver J. Wise, Dennis F. Driscoll, George A. Dodge and Arthur A. Keefe.

The large brick building which they now occupy is on South Main Street in the Chaffins district on the northeast side of the state highway at the top of the hill, north of the underpass, and was the first in the state to be erected for that purpose. The lot comprises two and one-half acres, and was purchased by the town from Miss Jennie M. Fairbanks.

The building was built in 1930, and cost approximately, \$46,000.

It was dedicated on December 20, with Commissioner Alfred F. Foote, District Attorney Edwin G. Norman, and Captain Charles T. Beaupre participating in the exercises.

The contractors were John Bowen Co., Inc., the architects, Stevens and Lee, and the engineer, Carl Stuetzel, Jr., all of Boston.

With Holden its headquarters, Massachusetts State Police have substations in Athol, Brookfield, Grafton, and Lunenburg.

May 21, 1940, a radio transmitting station serving Worcester County was installed.

This is in charge of George Johnson.

A most important service is that rendered by the Bureau of Photography which is in charge of George F. Fiske, and its wide range in this field includes finger printing, instruction in the taking of finger prints, photomicrography, and photostatic.

Lieutenant James E. Hughes is the present Troop Commander.

## QUABBIN TUNNEL IN HOLDEN

Thanks is extended to Mr. William W. Peabody, division engineer of the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission for the following description of this engineering project—

The Quabbin Aqueduct which supplies water for the Metropolitan District of Boston passes through Holden for a distance of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles in nearly an east-west direction through what was formerly Quinapoxet Village. This aqueduct is a tunnel 24.6 miles in length and is the second longest completed continuous tunnel in the world, being of a size sufficient to run a standard trolley car through it. It is constructed entirely in rock ranging in depth below the ground surface from about 200 feet to 800 feet. It takes water from the Ware River at Coldbrook and from Quabbin Reservoir at a point about one mile south of the former Greenwich Village. It is lined with concrete, forming a waterway 12 feet, 9 inches high and 11 feet wide.

Two of the thirteen shafts on this tunnel are in Holden. Shaft 2 adjacent to the Quinapoxet River about one mile east of the West Boylston town line is about 315 feet deep and Shaft 3 in North Woods district, and also adjacent to the Quinapoxet River, is about 350 feet deep. The tunnel crosses under Manning Street near Shaft 2 where it is 330 feet below the street; under Wachusett Street at the former Quinapoxet Village, 310 feet below the street; 360 feet below Princeton Street; 400 feet below Whitney Street; 430 feet below Bryant Road and is about 470 feet below Broad Street which it crosses near Shaft 4 just west of the Holden line in Rutland. The por-



tion of the tunnel within the town of Holden was constructed during 1927 to 1931, inclusive and was first put into service in March, 1931, when water from the Ware River was first diverted through the tunnel from Shaft 8 at Coldbrook to Wachusett Reservoir at Oakdale.

During the construction of the shafts and tunnel, an average of about 150 men were employed within the limits of the town of Holden. A camp was maintained at Shaft 2 where a considerable proportion of the men working from this shaft lived, but many of the men employed lived at their own homes and drove to and from work in their own cars. Only a short length of tunnel was driven from Shaft 3.

During the construction of the tunnel a detail study of the geological structure was made and specimens of rock were taken throughout the length of the tunnel at intervals of about 50 feet and were preserved and are available for public inspection at the Intake building at Coldbrook.

This tunnel passed through a dike of trap rock in Holden about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east of the Rutland town line. This is part of the same formation afterwards developed and now operated as a quarry by the Holden Trap Rock Company, at Jefferson.

## WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Under this service, in 1937, a number of bridges were re-constructed under the supervision of the Department of Public Works of Boston, and a number of Town roads were widened and repaired.

In 1940, at the Holden Distribution Center a total of 8,320 articles were received.

Food commodities totaled 142,543 pounds and added to this was a total of 5,010 dozen eggs and 1,152 cans of evaporated milk.

## HOLDEN SEWER SYSTEM

At a special town meeting on August 2, 1938, the town voted unanimously, "that the Selectmen be authorized to approve the Sewer Project sponsored by the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission, and grant permission for its construction on Town Highways and Town Property, said sewer to be 4.9 miles long and of 8 and 10 inch vitrified clay and cast iron pipe."

An agreement was made with the commission that it pay for materials and all other costs, except the cost of land easements, these to be paid by the Town, and, upon its completion the entire system to be taken over by the Town.

June 27, 1939, the Town made a taking of land over private property, and construction of the Sewer was started on September 28, of that year.

In 1940, the Town authorized the Selectmen to act as a Board of Sewer Commissioners until the 1941 Town Meeting.

Work on the project has continued steadily throughout 1941, and the close of the year will see it nearing completion.

Much time and manual labor has been saved by the use of the excavator owned and operated by Ralph O. Wagner of Bullard Street.



Local men in charge of the sewer construction are: William W. Peabody, division engineer, William S. Sargent, James F. Folsom, and G. Sumner Holden.

## WTAG

Surrounding territory was given careful inspection before the decision was made to erect the WTAG transmitting station on a sightly Holden hilltop.

As the location in Chaffins afforded the necessary amount of moisture it was chosen for the site of the beautiful broadcasting building, now surrounded by lovely lawns, shrubs, and flowers.

The Worcester Telegram and Gazette purchased more than sixty acres of land for the accommodation of this project, and the approximate cost of the original transmitter was \$175,000. The contractor was Lowell Whipple Company.

Two new towers were built during the summer of 1941, so that at present there is one 325 foot and four 375 foot towers whose glowing red lights are seen for many miles in all directions.

The station started operating on February 2, 1937, and has contacted stations as far distant as Australia. It has an effective primary coverage of 250,700 families in a population of 1,014,000, which includes Worcester County, portions of Middlesex, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties in Massachusetts, and parts of Northern Connecticut and Rhode Island, and southern New Hampshire.

In June, 1940, a new frequency modulation station was installed. This was a 1000 watt experimental station and operated on 43,400 K.C.

This frequency modulated station W1XTG, uses two brass rods as radiators near the top of the central tower, known as dipoles which radiates equally in all directions.

In charge of this station at the present time are, Clarence B. Kelley, transmitter operator, and radio operators Joseph Devereux, Edgar W. Frost, Elton W. Morde, Henry French and Howard Fuller.



## *Chapter XIV*

# Town Departments and Property

---

### TOWN PUMP

In 1879, a well was dug on the common, near the present location of the Hancock Common marker, and for years, townspeople and passersby enjoyed the pure cold water from this unfailing source.

The well served also the red house owned by Charles Flagg, next below the present post office. An underground pipe ran from the well into a huge cistern in the cellar, which provided an abundant water supply at all times for the occupants of the house.

### GLEN SPRING

Glen Spring, located on the west side of Sunnyside, was owned by Henry W. Warren, and furnished an abundant supply of pure water to residents of that section of the town.

The circular watering trough at the junction of Park Avenue and Main Streets was piped from the spring, and water receipts in the possession of James Smith show that the system extended to the home of his grandmother, Caroline B. Smith, who, in the '90's, lived in the house on the northwest corner of Fruit and Pleasant Streets, the present home of the Harold Hammonds.

In 1870, the house was owned by Leonard Fales.

## HOLDEN WATER WORKS

In July, 1897, the committee on Water Supply for Holden, Charles E. Parker, Edward W. Merrick and Fred T. Holt, had prepared a printed report of their committee, and that of Louis E. Hawes, Civil and Hydraulic Engineer, the latter report containing his design and estimation for a water system for Jefferson and Holden, the supply to be derived from the waters of Lake Muschopauge, located in the town of Rutland.

The estimated cost of the project was \$43,661.15.

Lake Muschopauge is elevated more than a thousand feet above sea level, has an area of about 70 acres, and is fed largely by springs. One acre of land covered by water one foot in depth contains 325,851 gallons.

300 families, each using 200 gallons of water per day for one year, would lower the lake less than one foot, even though the source of supply should be entirely cut off.

Since March, 1897, Chapter 180 of the Acts of the Legislature of 1896, "An Act to supply the Town of Holden with water from Muschopauge Lake in the Town of Rutland" went before the town at regular or special town meetings no less than seventeen times before it received the necessary two-thirds vote on September 22, 1904.

To finance its \$55,000 appropriation the town secured a loan providing for annual payments by the town for three, ten year periods.



The contract for the building of the intake at the Lake was awarded to Mr. Thomas Hennessey. Work at the Lake was begun about the 12th of April, 1905.

Nichols, Magee Construction Co. of Taunton, Mass. were the contractors for the laying of the cast iron pipe line.

This work was completed early in October at a cost of \$11,120.60.

The first Water Commissioners elected were: Henry W. Warren, Peter Carr, Stillman F. Morse, and in December, 1905, they appointed Arthur K. Warren, superintendent of the water works.

Upon the completion of the project the committee stated that the entire service of Engineer Hawes had been most satisfactory to them, and that great credit was due him for the efficiency with which his duties had been discharged.

The water system was extended to Dawson in 1905.

The cost of the system to March 1, 1910, was \$69,918.53.

In 1934, the system was extended to Chaffins. A Master Water Meter was installed in 1931.

The report of the Water Commissioners for the year 1940, showed the profit from operation to be \$6,274.10.

## DRINKING FOUNTAIN

In 1909, a beautiful granite drinking fountain, the gift of the Hon. Henry W. Warren, replaced the black circular one, which stood for many years on Main Street, at the junction of Highland Street.

Fresh running water is provided in three places. A generous basin on the road side, a bubbler and a small low basin for canines on the side next the sidewalk.

Over the bubbler are inscribed the lines, "Drink, pilgrim, here; here rest: and if thy heart be innocent, here too, shalt thou refresh they spirit,"—*Coleridge*.

On the street side the inscription reads:

Holden, Massachusetts

Town Incorporated, 1741

Water System introduced in 1905

Source, Muschapogue Lake

"A merciful man regardeth the life of his beast."

Presented by Henry W. Warren, 1909

It was largely through the tireless efforts of Mr. Warren, one of Holden's outstanding citizens, that the town arrived at the decision to secure the advantages of a pure water supply for Holden.

Mr. Warren served as Representative in 1882 and 1885, and served the town as Selectman, member of the Board of Overseers of the Poor, and as Town Treasurer, working ever for the best interests of the town and its people.

## SWIMMING POOL

When the various ponds in town were no longer available for bathing privileges, through the taking of Holden streams for Metropolitan Water supply, the



matter of a municipal pool became a much discussed topic.

The Civic League, Holden Woman's Club and individuals worked tirelessly toward a solution of the problem.

Eagle Lake, in Jefferson was the popular objective, but swimming privileges here were refused by the Metropolitan Commission.

Through the efforts of Representative W. Goulding Warren and others, a bill was introduced in the Legislature calling for the Commission to provide bathing facilities in Holden.

The act was approved June 29, 1934, and \$3,000 was paid by the Commission for the construction of a pool out of the former mill pond of Dawson's Mill on Salisbury Street, the cost of its yearly up keep to be paid by the town.

Bath houses have been erected and this recreation spot is well patronized by the young people of the town.

## MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

The town appropriated \$500 in 1891, for street lights. In 1904, they voted \$600 for maintaining street lights and also voted "that the street lamps be lighted twelve months in the year."

Under Article 4, at a town meeting on September 5, 1911, it was voted, "That the Selectmen be authorized to construct and equip, by contract or otherwise, within the limits of the town, a plant for the distribution of electricity, and furnishing light for municipal use, and light, heat and power for the use of its in-

habitants, and under Article 5 it was voted that the Selectmen be authorized to sign a contract for the purchase of electricity for a term not exceeding ten years for use of an electric light distributing plant in town. It was also voted to raise the sum of \$600 to install an electric lighting system in the Town Hall, Damon Memorial, two engine houses, the Rice School and the school house in Jefferson.

The contract for supplying electricity to the Holden Lighting plant by the Connecticut River Transmitting Company was signed February 27, 1912, the contract made for a term beginning on February 1, 1912, and terminating February 1, 1922.

The current was first turned on the commercial lines in Holden and Chaffins on January 26, 1912, and the streets of the town were first lighted by electricity on January 29th.

The first report showed that there were 120 street lights, the number being increased to 142 during the first year.

Chester LaCroix qualified as manager. Thomas F. Marlowe was appointed manager of the Plant February 1, 1913, and served until his death in 1928.

In April, 1914, the system was changed so that the town might obtain its current direct from the Connecticut River Transmitting Company at its substation in Greendale over a new line constructed on Doyle Street.

In 1928 the town purchased about 80 rods of land on Reservoir Street and authorized the Municipal Light Board to build and equip a Central Distributing Station thereon. This was completed that year.



New Transformers were installed at this station in 1932.

The revenue loss due to the 1938 hurricane was estimated at about \$1,200.

In 1940 the Light Board reported \$11,757.99 as the net profit from operation for that year.

The present load capacity is 600 K. V. A. The new outdoor substation 1000 K. V. A., making the total load capacity 1600 K. V. A.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

At a special town meeting September 20, 1905, the Selectmen were authorized to take action in regard to forming one or more hose companies, and, accordingly, on October 9th, they appointed twelve fire engineers, to be equally divided between the center of the town and Jefferson.

October 17, 1905, Justice of Peace, Samuel W. Armington administered the oath of office to Arthur K. Warren, Loring W. Hubbard, Milton Holden, Merle E. Stevens, and Fred F. Taylor.

The sworn engineers then retired to the G.A.R. Hall where they organized with the following choice of officers: Chief Engineer, Arthur K. Warren, Assistant Chief Engineer, George L. Stone, Treasurer and Clerk, Loring W. Hubbard.

At that same meeting the town voted to purchase two hose carriages, one to be kept at Jefferson, and the other at the Centre, also one thousand feet of linen hose, to be equally divided between the two villages. \$500 was appropriated for the latter. Fire Chiefs of

the two companies were James H. Jackson, Jefferson, and Arthur K. Warren, Holden.

In March, 1906, the town voted to build two fire houses, one at Jefferson and one at the centre, and appropriated \$3,000 for that purpose.

The building contract was awarded to Waldo E. Austin.

During that year the Holden Fire Company had a membership of 24.

The bell in the Baptist Church was used to sound the alarm for fire.

In 1908, Jefferson had a volunteer fire company of 36 members.

In 1916, the town voted to purchase an automobile combination double tank chemical and hose truck at a cost of \$3,750.

The sum of \$550 was voted in 1927, for the purchase of a Siren Fire Alarm, and in 1927, a combination hose and chemical truck was purchased for use at Chaffins, also a triple combination fire truck for Holden Center.

In 1934, a new forest fire truck was purchased.

In 1940, the board of engineers listed the value of their equipment at \$10,736.

The prompt, efficient service rendered by this department is a valuable asset to the town, and through this protection Holden has escaped the severe property losses by fire which have occurred in many towns.



## HIGHWAYS

*The Six-Rod Roads*

The first mention of any roads in what is now the town of Holden is found in the Proprietors' Records, under the date of April 22, 1724, and is as follows:

"At a Meeting of the Proprietors of the Comon and undivided Lands in Worcester orderly met at Worcester by an adjournment from the 18th March 1723-4 to the 22nd April 1724."

"Voted By the Proprietors At Sd meeting that there be a committee of five men Chosen to Lay out four Publique Roads Six Rods wide in the North half of Worcester as shall be thought necessary to be Laid out before the Lotts are pitched and Laid out in Sd half part Which are to be Laid out from the Centre of Sd half part in Such waies As Shall be most Serviceable To Sd half part and the Towns next adjoining." Under date of October 22, 1724.

"Also a Road six rod wide beginning at the Center of Sd north part marked on the westerly side of Sd Road and so Leading on the westerly side of stone house hill and on the Easterly side of Hassinnabumskuck hill so to run to Leicester Line."

"October 24, 1724

Laid out a highway six rod wide from the center of the Sd North part of Worcester E over Quinipoxet River & so to Worcester Line by Marked Trees on the most northerly side of said Road, October 26, 1724. Laid out a road Six rods wide from the centre of ye

north part of Worcester to Rutland line by marked trees of ye north side of said Road."

Benj. Flagg, Jr.,  
Nathaniel Jone,  
Moses Lenard,

*Committee*

Each year a number of similar roads were made. At a town meeting, Oct. 9, 1741, it was "voted that Every man Shall give two days work Tords building the Brige over the river at Lieut. Davises mills on the countree roade."

From year to year country roads were built.

In 1752. Laid out from Worcester Court House to Lunenburg Meeting House through Holden, Sterling, etc.

In 1758. Laid out from Petersham Meeting House to Worcester Court House through Rutland, Holden, etc.

In 1770. Laid out from Winchendon to Worcester, through Ashburnham, Westminster, Princeton, Holden, etc.

In 1793. Laid out from County road in Worcester to Holden Meeting House, running by Wm. McFarland's in Worcester.

Altered portion of County road leading from Stephen Salisbury's in Worcester, to near Isaac Chenery's in Holden.

In 1741 two highway surveyors were chosen.

The number was increased year by year, till in 1750 there were six; in 1770, eleven; in 1790, fifteen; in 1830, twenty-one; and in 1850, twenty-five.





STATE POLICE BARRACKS







*The Sixth Massachusetts Turnpike*

“When the Turnpike fever ran high, the following Act was passed, “Be it therefore enacted by the Senate, and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by authority of the same, that Jonathan Warner, Samuel Parkman, Josiah Knapp, and such persons as shall be associated with them, and their successors, be and they are hereby constituted a corporation by the name of the Sixth Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation, for the laying out and making a Turnpike Road from the East line of Amherst near William Breton’s House, through the Towns of Pelham, Greenwich, Hardwick, New Braintree, Oakham, Rutland, Holden, Worcester, to the great road in Shrewsbury, etc.”

Said road was forty-three miles and one hundred and twelve rods long and four rods wide and passed through Holden partly over the line of the old six-rod road. It was made in one summer, and cost about \$33,000.

“The Corporation relinquished its franchise and, on August 11, 1828, held its last meeting. The turnpike became a county road, or common highway.”

The old Toll House stood a little west of the Center. Peter Hubbard was voted a committee to have said house erected. “Said house to be clapboarded on the studs, ceiled with matched boards inside and overhead, a window of twelve squares of 9 x 7. Glass at each end and in front.” One of the oldest maps of Holden bears the date May 20, 1795. The location of the meeting house is shown on the map, also three bridges, at Eagleville, Chaffins and below Lovelville.

Probably these were the only bridges in town at that time.

In 1856 the stone arch bridge in Chaffinville was constructed. In 1866 the town voted to construct a stone bridge over the stream near Nathan Howe's Mills. 1884: Voted to build an iron bridge at Jefferson, on Mount Pleasant Avenue.

At a special town meeting the town voted to contract with the State Highway Commission for the construction of a section of state road. This was built in 1894-5 and the first mile cost the town \$7,129.54. For the next twenty years money was appropriated, and another section of these splendid roads was built yearly. Later, appropriations were made for improved county roads.

Those who can recall the spring mud and summer dust encountered years ago on our town roads can well appreciate the comfort and convenience of these smooth, modern expanses of highway along which one may travel from town to town.

It is of interest to note that the shortest one way street in the world is in Holden, at the junction of Main and Highland Streets. From the point where the road divides to Main Street is 90 feet.

## CARE OF THE POOR

### *Poor Farm Association*

The care of paupers was long a problem. In 1794 it had been voted that the Selectmen provide a house for the town's poor, but at the same meeting it was afterward voted that the Selectmen should use their



discretion in the matter, and no house seems to have been procured.

In 1797, we find it voted "to dispose of the town's poor to the lowest bidder—voted also that the Selectmen appoint a time and put up an advertisement for a Vendue for that purpose." This method of arranging for their care, however repellent to the sentiment of today, was common at that time, and we may fairly presume that it was continued until the establishment of a town Poor Farm. After repeated discussions, in 1830, the "James Davis" place containing about 280 acres was bought for \$3,000, and a house was soon fitted up for the reception of the paupers, of whom, in 1837, there were no less than twenty.

The cost of their support in 1838 was \$557.39. In 1879 the net amount drawn from the Treasury for the support of the poor was \$1,411.32.

November 5, 1889 the town voted to authorize the co-operative care of the poor, and on April 1, 1890 the Poor Farm Association was organized, after a committee from Holden, consisting of Charles E. Parker, Edward W. Merrick and William J. Prendergast had conferred several times with committees from Hubbardston and Paxton, and a committee from Princeton, chosen to investigate the matter more fully.

The Association was at first formed for a period of three years, and by-laws stated, "it shall be managed by one person from each board of Overseers of the Poor of the towns forming the Association."

The annual report for the year ending January 1898 showed that they had cared for 30 to 36 inmates and

577 "tramps" and their outlay for that year was \$1,871.17.

On February 21, 1904, the Poor Farm buildings on Newell Road, which had been built about seventy-five years before, were destroyed by fire.

At that time there were twenty-one inmates. The establishment had cared for the poor of Holden, Hubbardston, Oakham, Rutland, Paxton, Templeton, Princeton, Phillipston and Westminster.

On March 1, at a meeting of the Association, it was voted to have each town care for its own charges for a time, at least.

Also, a resolution was adopted thanking the warden, Mr. Aaron L. Potter, for the efficient services during the past eight years, and for having all of the inmates brought to safety at the time of the fire.

In 1908 the town voted to join the Charlton Poor Farm Association.

In 1927 the name of the Board of Overseers of the Poor was changed to the Board of Public Welfare.

The first board to serve under this new name was: George H. Marsh, Aaron L. Potter, T. Walter Howe.

In 1928, \$5,200 was appropriated and seventeen person having a settlement in Holden were given aid.

In 1937 the town accepted a bequest under the will of Cora I. Dean to be known as the "Welcome Aldrich Relief Fund," the income only to be used for the relief of the worthy poor of Holden.

The town voted that this money be expended under the direction of the Board of Public Welfare.

In 1940 the expenditure for Public Welfare was \$29,512.07.



## TOWN SEAL

At a special town meeting July 15, 1899, it was voted to establish a town seal in accordance with Section 2, Chapter 256 of the Acts of the Legislature of 1899.

A committee chosen for the purpose made a report, which was accepted and adopted, as follows:

“Town of Holden, Mass.  
Incorporated, 1741.”

For a device for the centre, “The First Meeting House. Erected, 1737.”

## TOWN HOUSE

“Not till 1836, well toward the close of its first century of corporate existence, did Holden have a Town House. Up to that time, town meetings were regularly held in the meeting house of the Congregational Church, which was first built and later repaired at public expense, and consequently up to the separation of Church and State, was properly controlled and used by the town.”

The first town meeting was called in the new Hall, November 14th, 1836, but the report of the Building Committee, Samuel Damon, Daniel Knowlton, William Metcalf, George Flagg, and Charles Chaffin was not rendered until a year later.

“According to their report, the building was ‘built in a permanent and workman like manner on a strong substantial foundation and most of the (work) and materials have been much to their satisfaction, is sixty feet long including the piazza and thirty-eight feet wide.

The building was erected under contract by Martin Harrington, and cost \$3,869.58."

In 1876, the hall was enlarged by the addition of twenty-six feet to its length, and the entire building was remodeled. The alteration plans were furnished by James E. Fuller of Worcester. The work was done under contract by Waldo E. Austin, the total cost exceeding \$4,000.

In 1934, a new steam heating plant was installed with an oil burner having a one thousand gallon storage tank, the interior of the hall was painted and re-decorated with E.R.A. and C.W.A. funds and the horse sheds in the rear of the building were torn down and the material used to build a large storage shed and fire station at the Street Department Garage.

## THE JAIL

In 1892, the town voted \$500 for the erection of a jail. This building, constructed of stone stands close to the street, on the right, just before one enters the village of Jefferson.

At that time a "floating" population was constantly on the move, going from one village to another in search of employment.

Some towns provided what were termed "tramp houses" for these individuals.

In Jefferson, Deputy Sheriff Edward W. Merrick held the keys of this building and passing "travelers" without means were given shelter here for the night.



## TOWN FOREST

In 1933, George S. Gramham presented to the town a tract of wood land consisting of 100 acres more or less, situated on the southerly side of Harris Street.

The town voted unanimously to accept the gift and to name the tract in honor of the donor.

## BUILDING AND REAL ESTATE

The past few years have seen many changes in residential sections of the town.

New tracts of land have been developed, streets laid out, and in all parts of the town very attractive new homes are being built. Many of these are of the "Cape Cod type."

During the year 1940 the selectmen issued permits for the construction and alteration of 114 dwellings, this being by far the largest number ever recorded for one year.

In 1895 the valuation of Real Estate in Holden was \$1,203,233.

For the year 1941 it was \$3,418,273.





## Organizations

---

The early settlers from far and near came to the church on Sabbath for "all day preaching." They carried with them their foot-stoves containing live coals to supply them with a bit of warmth during the long hours, for in those days churches were unheated.

At intermission the women and children went to one of the "noon houses," and, warming themselves around the great circular fireplace, ate their lunches, which they brought from home. One of these "noon houses" stood opposite the church.

The men, meanwhile, were assembled at the "Old Abbott Tavern."

This brief season of sociability may often have been their only contact with other persons living in various parts of the town, and across the many years it is difficult for us to visualize what an important place in their lives these weekly gatherings held.

As the town grew, and conditions changed, and as need was felt for organized effort of any sort, always there appeared one or more individuals with a "vision," who were willing to devote time and effort to its accomplishment. So, with keen interest we note the various organizations which have been formed in town.

Some have served their purpose and are disbanded, making way for others in the forward march of time but each one fulfilled some definite requirement during the time of its activity.

## HOLDEN THIEF DETECTING SOCIETY

A society for detecting thieves was organized with thirty-two members in the year 1818. The purpose of its organization may be learned from the following extract from the constitution adopted February 23, 1818:

“†As energy, vigilance, and union are highly expedient to suppress the sons of violence, often found in society, the persons whose names are hereunto annexed, do agree to form themselves into a society, for the purpose of detecting thieves and recovering stolen property.”

The Society at present, when duly organized, consists of a President; the duties of Secretary and Treasurer are performed by the same person; a standing Committee and a Pursuing Committee.

This was one of many similar societies which were organized for the same purpose in the towns of this region. This society flourished for sixty years or more, and during this period of almost two generations, it included within its membership nearly all the leading citizens of the town.

## KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

“The Worcester County Encampment of Knights Templar was constituted at Holden, December 17, 1824, working under dispensation until June 16, 1825,

---

† Damon History, P. 24



when it received its charter. At that time a public address, which was printed, was given by Rev. Benjamin Wood, of Upton.

“The place of meeting was the hall, connected with the Abbott Hotel. Holden, at that period, was relatively one of the most important of those thriving business centres which surrounded Worcester, and which were not far behind the shire town in enterprise and progress. The Encampment remained in Holden until January, 1831, when it removed to Worcester.”

1. By-laws of the Worcester County Commandery, Knights Templars, 1878, p. 21.

In 1869, the name was changed from Encampment to Commandery.

“On the 24th of June, 1875, the Commandery celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of its organization by a visit to the old Asylum at Holden, a public parade in Worcester, and a banquet at the hall. The hall was in the second story of the rear part of the old Abbott Hotel.”

Negotiations were made with the owner, Chenery Abbott for the transfer of the original chandelier used in very early days, together, with one of the old benches, and a pair of well used “loggerheads” to the Worcester apartments of the commandery.

A substantial repast was provided by Brother Chenery Abbott, who catered for the Sir Knights at the banquet of the organization fifty years before.

In 1924 a boulder was dedicated at the junction of Reservoir and Main Streets, across from the old Abbott tavern and inscribed as follows:

1824

1924

Worcester County Encampment

of

Knights Templars

was organized on December 17, 1824

in the Hall of the Abbott Hotel, near

this spot

Petitioners

Sir James Estabrook, Jr.,—1st Commander

Sir George Estabrook—1st Generalissimo

Sir Merrill Davis,—1st Captain General

Sir Benjamin Wood

Sir William Newell

Sir George Willard

Sir William C. Capron

Sir Samuel Stratton

Sir David Holman

This tablet erected

by

Worcester County Commandery, No. 5

Knights Templars

December 17, 1924



## TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES

The constitution of the first Temperance Society in Holden, was adopted, September 15, 1829. The Rev. Horatio Bardwell and Ethan Davis, Esq., were active in its formation. The 3rd article reads as follows:

“The members of this society believing that the use of intoxicating liquors is, for persons in health, not only unnecessary, but hurtful, and that the practice is the cause of forming intemperate habits and appetites, that while it is continued, the evils of intemperance can never be prevented; do therefore agree, that we will abstain from the use of distilled spirits, except as a medicine, in case of bodily infirmity, and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance the use of them in the community.

“If, however, individuals shall deem it necessary to make any use of ardent spirits, they shall report the same at the annual meeting of the Society.

“In 1841, a ‘Washington Total Abstinence Society’ was formed. In 1835 the town voted (one hundred and fifteen to forty-five) that the Selectmen be instructed to withhold their approbation from any person as an inholder to sell ardent spirits. In every way, during the decade from 1830 to 1840, temperance was an exciting and devisive topic.”

## THE FARMERS’ AND MECHANICS’ CLUB

The Farmers’ and Mechanics’ Club was organized in the Town Hall, November 20, 1860, its object being to “promote the interests of agriculture and the welfare of the Farmer and Mechanic, and to dissem-

inate such Knowledge, practical and scientific, as shall conduce to that end."

Fifty-four names were signed to the constitution. Joab S. Holt was chosen president, and Joseph H. Gleason, secretary.

All day meetings were held in the Town Hall twice each month, during the winter, and they were largely attended by people from all parts of the town. The morning session opened at eleven o'clock and closed at twelve-thirty. A committee then served dinner with an abundance of home cooked food.

At two o'clock the period of sociability ended, and members and friends took seats in the "upper hall," the ladies with "fancy work" in hand, and the men prepared to discuss the topic of the day.

Many subjects of much importance to the town were first discussed in these meetings.

Among many questions receiving consideration were (1887) "Are the municipal expenses of Holden sufficiently economical for the good of the town?" (1889) "Would the cause of temperance be promoted by woman suffrage?" (1893) "Does our large outlay for school pay?" Later, the matter of state roads, town lights, town water and many other subjects were carefully studied and discussed. An estimated three hundred persons were present at the Ladies' Day meeting on February 3, 1909. The club met for the last time on March 13, 1918.

In combining pleasure and profit, these gatherings for many years played a definite and helpful part in the community life of the town.



## THERON E. HALL POST, NO. 77

Theron E. Hall Post, No. 77 Grand Army of the Republic was organized January 19, 1869, with the following charter members:

Samuel W. Armington

Phineas R. Newell

Artemas D. Bascom

Edwin Chaffee

James Peacock

Emory Rogers

Isaac Damon

Thaddeus S. Clark

Marius S. Cooley

Austin E. Skiff

That year, 1869, Samuel W. Armington, was Commander from January to July—and Emory Rogers from July to December.

The Post was named in honor of Major Theron E. Hall, who was engaged in the manufacturing business and held numerous town offices, in Holden, until he resigned in order to devote himself to the service of his country during the period of the war.

He became a member of the State Legislature and Secretary of the Soldier's Home, at Tougas, Maine. He died in San Diego, California in 1880, and was buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Leicester, with Masonic honors.

Each year the Post arranged the annual Memorial Day services, with the various patriotic organizations in the line of march from Town Hall to the ceme-

teries, where graves were decorated by members of the Post.

In the afternoon the program usually consisted of a patriotic address given in the Town hall, with music on the common, where many former residents came to greet old friends and towns people.

For many years, at Memorial time, members of the Post gave patriotic addresses in the various schools in town, and later this work was carried on by members of the Sons of Veterans and the Woman's Relief Corps.

The last survivors of that brave company of men who went out from Holden to serve the country they loved were George S. Graham who died in 1933, and Charles E. Farrar in 1935.

## HOLDEN GRANGE

The Holden Grange, No. 78, Patrons of Husbandry, was organized February 9, 1875, with thirty-one charter members.

Ethan Davis held the office of Master, that year, and Joseph H. Gleason that of Secretary.

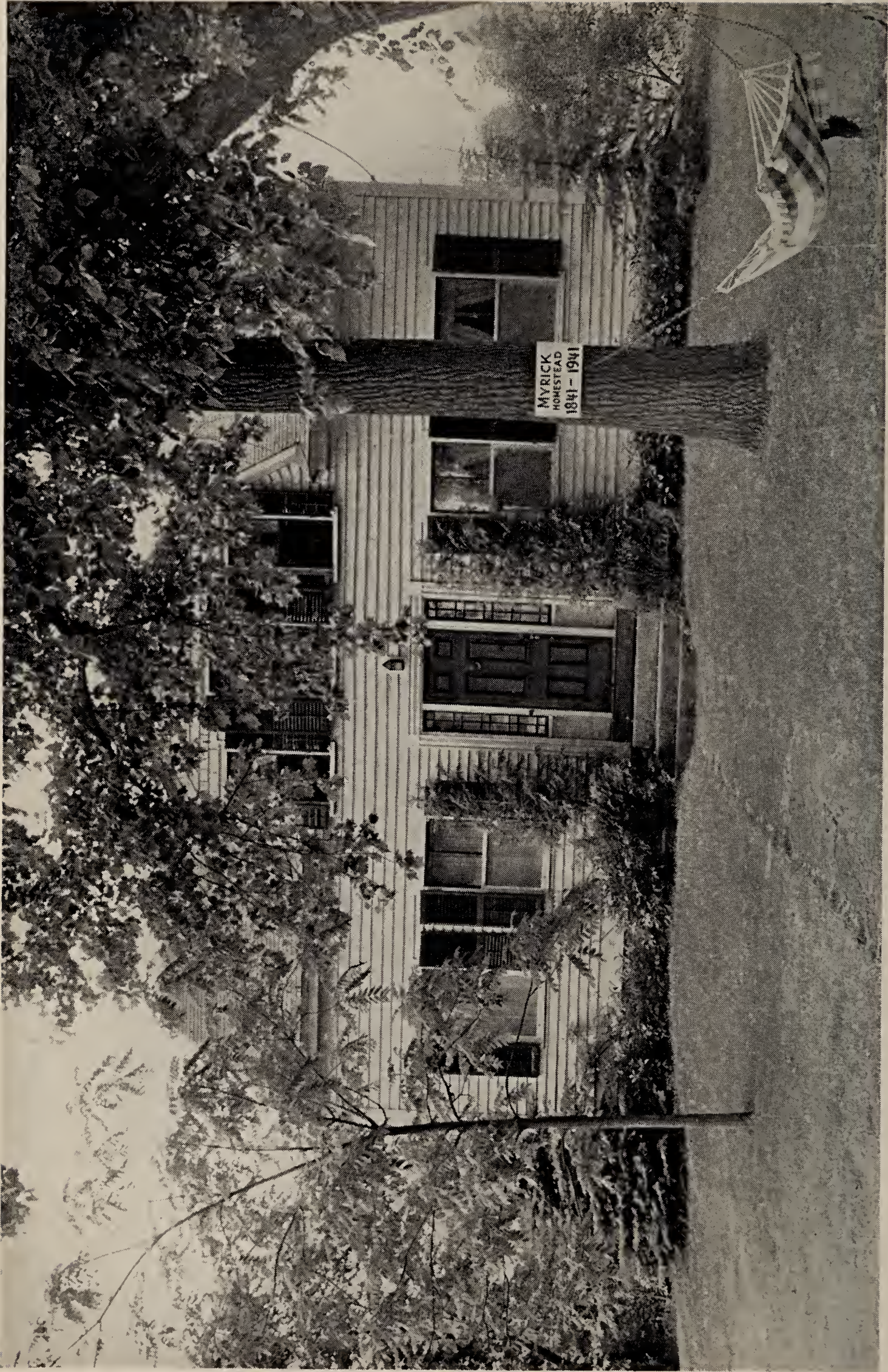
For sixty-six years it has continued the high ideals embodied in its formation, and with its splendid educational and social programs, it holds an important place among the organizations functioning in town today.

Occasional meetings with county, state, and national groups are an added source of enjoyment to its membership, which now numbers more than two hundred.









MYRICK HOMESTEAD



## NONDESCRIPT CLUB

This was organized as a social club, in 1881, but after a few meetings it was decided to work for the public good and its "object" as stated in its constitution should be "to promote social feeling, and establish a fund for the public benefit."

To obtain funds they held picnics, lawn parties, suppers and in 1882, a fair was held.

The club secured the digging of the well on the common, and introduced water into the Town Hall. They bought dishes for use at the Hall, and a desk for Memorial Hall, and also provided many of the street lamps in town.

## WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

This society, organized October 12, 1885 was active in town for some years.

The departments of work taken up were: juvenile, Sunday-school, legislative, and scientific temperance instruction.

Among its leading members were, Mrs. Israel Manning Ball, president of the society for more than ten years, Mrs. Samuel Warren, secretary, Mrs. Joseph H. Ames.

## CHATAUQUA CLUB

During the period between 1880 and 1890 this society, which was associated with the National Association, was active in this vicinity.

Mr. Henry H. Holden, Mr. Gustavus S. Holden and Rev. Thomas E. Babb were instrumental in organizing the club which offered a four year course of reading and serious study to persons desiring the advantages of a higher education.

## HOLDEN CLUB

Organized July, 1889.

## VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

This society was organized in November, 1889, by a number of public spirited citizens in Holden center. Soon similar societies were organized in Jefferson and Quinapoxet.

Fairs were held in each village, and the money raised was expended at the Center and Jefferson for sidewalks, and at Quinapoxet for street lights.

Besides the building of sidewalks, the societies caused the planting of many shade trees, and planned other ways of adding to the beauty of the town.

## WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS

The Theron E. Hall Woman's Relief Corps No. 140, Auxiliary to the G. A. R., was organized April 13, 1891, with the following charter members. Martha E. Graham, Mattie L. Holden, Sophronia R. Hubbard, Mary P. Newell, Mary N. Rogers, Mary E. Matthews, E. Maria Hubbard, Hattie A. Farrar, Elizabeth A. Whitney, Emma S. Mulit, Lucy A. Stearns, Addie R. Brown, Lucy S. Allen, Margaret B. Whittemore, Jessie Seaver, Mary J. Holden, Alida A. Chen-



ery, Sarah A. Allen, Theresa McGrath, Martha G. Hubbard, Mary C. Hill, Jane Hubbard. Mrs. Martha Graham was chosen the first president.

During the years since that day, the Corps has rendered much service along patriotic lines. For many years its members made all the wreaths used for decorating the graves at Memorial time, served dinners, and joined in the Memorial Day Parade.

They have presented many schools with flags, and given freely of their funds for the relief of the needy.

This year they celebrated their 50th anniversary.

### ALPHA SOCIAL CLUB

The Alpha Club was organized May 30, 1896. At that time, many out of town people came to Holden to pass the summer months, and for years these visitors, and the townspeople, enjoyed the weekly evening programs of this club, which were varied with the best local talent and that from other sources. The meetings were held in the lower town hall. In August 1924 the club by-laws were changed to include residents of Paxton, Rutland and Princeton. The membership was then more than 130.

### A. O. U. W. HOLDEN LODGE, NO. 201

Organized January, 1897.

### ECONOMIC CLUB

This club was formed in November, 1899, by a group of leading citizens who met regularly for the

study and discussion of current events and world affairs.

Rev. Thomas E. Babb, active in the formation of the club, was its first president, and continued to serve for some years.

Many of the meetings were held in the home of William D. Chenery on Main Street.

### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS, HOLDEN LODGE, NO. 148

Organized January 27, 1902. Meetings held at Town building first and third Tuesdays of each month. Officers elected quarterly.

### HOLDEN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

This was organized in 1902 and once each year a reunion of past and present members of the school was held.

In 1917 it was voted that only graduates of the school should be entitled to membership in the association.

Meetings were held in the town hall where an entertainment was provided, followed by refreshments and dancing.

Miss Clara K. Bascom was an early secretary of this organization.

After a time meetings were discontinued but in 1926 there was a renewal of interest. Newly elected officers were: Dr. Walter H. Richardson, President; Mrs. Sarah Muzzy, Secretary. Upon the completion of the



new High School Building in 1926, a banquet was held there which was largely attended.

Speakers were chosen who had been attendants at the school. Since then yearly meetings have been held, and on alumni evening, June 30, 1941, two hundred members were present at the banquet which was followed by interesting reminiscences given by former instructors and alumni members.

### DAMON CAMP, NO. 122, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Damon Camp, No. 122, was organized August 10, 1906, with the following charter members: Frank H. Stevens, Harry L. Green, Albert A. Graham, Lewis S. Toombs, John W. David, Winslow H. Rogers, Frank C. Hubbard, Arthur L. Kirby, Walter A. Stevens, Herman E. Jefts, Merle E. Stevens, Charles S. Graham, Charlie B. Jordan, Benjamin W. Toombs, Fred J. Toombs, Winfred H. Stearns, Leslie A. Cole, George W. Pierce, Louis Bepro, Eugene W. Cole, Harry C. Damon, Louis A. LeBlanc, Dennis H. Nawn, H. Everett Green, Henry A. Holt. Frank H. Stevens was active in the organization of the Camp, and was its first commander.

Their work was to assist the Grand Army in their Patriotic activities in every way possible, and this they did from year to year until the thinning ranks and failing health of the G. A. R. members left to the co-operation of the Sons of Veterans and the American Legion and their Auxiliaries, the patriotic work and

yearly decoration of the graves of comrades who now "lie asleep."

### WACHUSETT CHAPTER, NO. 131, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Wachusett Chapter, No. 131, was instituted March 23rd, 1911, and was constituted October 30, 1911.

Among the first officers chosen were: Worthy Matron, Bessie M. Washburn; Worthy Patron, Edward E. Howe; Associate Matron, Susie L. Austin; Associate Patron, Arthur E. Haley; Secretary, Mary C. Bascom; Treasurer, Ella A. Hayden.

There were thirty-eight charter members, seven of whom are still active in the work of the chapter. They are Mrs. Charles E. Adams, Miss Mary C. Bascom, Mrs. Henry E. Bemis, Mrs. E. Frank Kelton, Mrs. Charles C. Paine, Dr. Frank H. Washburn, Mrs. Frank H. Washburn.

Social gatherings are held, and the chapter renders helpful service to its members whenever such is needed.

It celebrated its thirtieth anniversary in October, 1941.

### BOY SCOUTS

In 1912 or 1913 Rev. George E. Cary was instrumental in organizing Boy Scout Troop Number 1, in Holden, and for some years he continued as their leader.

He was followed by Henry S. Muzzy. From 1923-1926 Freeman Hawley and Nathan Matthews were in charge, and then Benjamin Johnson became leader. During this period the troop had no connection with the Worcester Council Organization, and its activities



were entirely under the direction of the scoutmaster and his helpers.

For a few years the troop was abandoned, but in 1930 the Congregational Church became its sponsor with Randall Piper as scoutmaster. This was known as Troop Number 140. Windsor W. Peterson was the next leader, and then for about four years Lawrence C. Gaunt was in charge. During this time the increase in membership warranted the formation of a second troop, 140B, with Thomas Smith as its leader. A little later this was merged with Troop 140.

The boys have enjoyed camping and hiking and have provided Parent's Night entertainments. A Minstrel Show was given in 1940.

In 1941 Troop 140, with 38 members, is being sponsored by the American Legion, and a newly formed troop, Number 180, with 22 members, has the Congregational and Baptist Churches for its sponsors.

The latter Troop is under the leadership of Benjamin Holden and Warren White.

## CAPTAIN GEORGE WEBB CHAPTER

### *Daughters of the American Revolution*

The Captain George Webb Chapter was organized March 27, 1913, in the Congregational Church. The chapter was organized and the officers installed by Mrs. Sarah E. Brown of Auburn. Mrs. Anna P. Fay was the first regent.

Captain George Webb, for whom the chapter was named, was born in Barnstable. At eighteen he served as a soldier in the French War, and was one of the first to enlist in the struggle for independence. He

came to Holden during that time and was the only one of the thirty-five who served in the Continental Army to become a commissioned officer. He was a fearless soldier and a high spirited officer.

His first home in Holden was a house opposite Bul-lard Street, in Chaffins. Later, he made his home on Boyden Road. He served the town as assessor in 1783, and as town clerk and selectman in 1792-93.

He is buried in the grave yard opposite the common.

Each year the Chapter holds a series of meetings with topics of educational, patriotic, and historic interest, and some of the projects sponsored by them have been, the support of a French war orphan, regular work for the Red Cross and for the Holden District Hospital. After the death of Miss Marion Bascom a room at Holden District Hospital was furnished by them in her memory.

Scholarships in Maryville College, Tennessee, have been given, and medals to pupils in Holden schools for excellence in U. S. History.

July 4, 1916, the chapter presented the town a granite boulder marking the acre of land given to the town in 1789 by Gov. Hancock, "to be forever used as a common."

Hon. Henry W. Warren was historian of the day. Miss Marion A. Bascom, regent of the Chapter, at that time, presented the boulder to the town, and Mrs. Anna Fay, their first regent, unveiled the marker. The gift was accepted for the town by Rev. Thomas E. Babb.

March 9, 1938, the chapter celebrated its 25th anniversary.



## CAMPFIRE GIRLS

A group of Campfire Girls was organized about 1913 by Mrs. George E. Cary and Mrs. Howard A. Newton. A little later Mrs. Charles T. Hawley became their leader.

Their activities were continued for about ten years, when the organization was disbanded.

## ASNEBUMSKIT TRIBE, RED MEN

The Holden Tribe of Red Men was organized December 7, 1913, with Charles G. Carlson as Sachem, and William B. Gain, Keeper of Records.

## ONOWA COUNCIL, NO. 101, DAUGHTERS OF POCOHONTAS

This order was organized April 1, 1924, with 70 charter members. Mrs. William Lindstrom was their first Pocahontas.

These organizations provide programs of social interest for their members during the year, holding their meetings in Red Men's Hall which is located on Hill Top Avenue, Jefferson.

## HOLDEN WOMAN'S CLUB

In 1915 two social groups in town, the Tuesday Club and the Fifteen Club, feeling that "in union is strength," decided to merge their memberships, in order to enlarge the scope of their work, enabling them to carry out a broader program of social and educational interest.

Accordingly, on the afternoon of April 22nd, members of the two clubs met in the Community House to discuss the advisability of forming a Woman's Club in Holden. After all had expressed their views a temporary organization was formed, with Mrs. George E. Cary, president, and Mrs. Henry H. Holden, secretary.

On May 3rd, a committee met at the home of Mrs. William S. Piper to draw up the by-laws for the new club, and Article 2 states that, "The object of this Association shall be the improvement of its members and the practical consideration of the important questions that grow out of the relations of the individual to society, the basis of membership being earnestness of purpose, love of truth, and a desire to promote the best interests of humanity."

These by-laws were accepted and adopted at a meeting on May 13th, and signed by the members at a meeting at Mrs. Cary's on May 23rd. On June 28, 1915, the club met in the Community House and the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Mary E. Piper; First Vice-President, Mrs. Ethel G. Cary; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Annie M. Sanborn; Clerk, Mrs. Grace A. Stickney; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. M. Addie Holden; Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret E. Muir; Auditor, Mrs. Agnes Powers. That year the club joined the State Federation, and their 1915-1916 program lists seventy-six active and eight associate members.

Since that day their programs have covered a wide range of subjects and each year the various depart-



ments have brought many outstanding speakers to the meetings.

Some of the club's activities have been—organization of Red Cross work, supporting of three French orphans, as long as it was needed, sponsoring of the Parent-Teachers' Association, a generous donation of money toward the dental clinic, the gift of a library to the Holden District Hospital, a motion picture machine to the High School, and sponsoring the planting of the first living Christmas tree in Holden on September 12, 1931.

Sixteen clubs and organizations shared in the expense of this, and on February 18, 1932, the tree was dedicated in connection with the observance of the Bicentennial of the birthday of George Washington.

In 1934 a Junior Woman's Club was formed with Miss Cynthia Harrington as president.

In 1941 the Holden Woman's Club has one hundred seventy-five active members and thirteen associate members and there is a waiting list.

A number of members from the adjoining towns of Princeton and Rutland are active in the work of the club.

February 15, 1941, marked the celebration of its 25th anniversary. There were morning and afternoon speakers, and a luncheon at noon, at which ten past presidents responded at the call of the president. This meeting was largely attended, and was typical of the loyalty and enthusiasm which has marked the progress of the club from year to year, in its endeavor "to promote the best interests of humanity."

## JOHN E. HARKINS POST, NO. 42, AMERICAN LEGION

The John E. Harkins Post was organized in 1919, and the earliest records show that a meeting was held in November of that year when William Marlowe was commander and George Battye, adjutant.

A military ball and other functions were held that first year. In 1922 a set of by-laws and a constitution were adopted.

November 1, 1923, bronze tablets were erected at Quinapoxet and Unionville schools, in memory of four Holden boys who lost their lives in the World War.

Judge John J. O'Brien was the speaker and there were exercises by the school children.

In 1934 the post was incorporated, and in September that year, they met in the new quarters acquired by them for a permanent post home, a short distance from the Grove Cemetery entrance.

This was formally dedicated on September 29th and 30th with appropriate exercises.

On Hancock Common, opposite the Congregational Church, on Memorial Day, 1935, a tree was planted in memory of the five Holden boys who died during the World War. In front of it is a tablet bearing their names and the dates of their deaths. See Roll of Honor.

The Harkins plot in Saint Mary's Cemetery is so-called in memory of John E. Harkins.

Among the many activities of the Post are their sponsorship of the Holden Boy Scout Troop, relief work, an annual clambake, Christmas party, play, and a two-day carnival which is well patronized by Holden people and those from surrounding towns.



Following the decoration of graves, each Memorial Day, the townspeople gather at the World War memorial where exercises are conducted by members of the Legion, and at twelve o'clock a salute of twenty-one guns is fired.

### JOHN E. HARKINS

John E. Harkins was born in Worcester, October 10, 1900.

When he was six years of age his family removed to Unionville where he attended the school in that district.

He enlisted in the World War January 17, 1917, and was killed by a train on March 8, 1918, while on the march to the front.

He is buried in France.

### HOLDEN WORLD WAR MEMORIAL

February 2, 1920, the following committee was appointed to consider the matter of a permanent Memorial for the citizens who served in the World War: Bertram S. Newell, C. Arthur Marsh, James M. Prendergast, George C. Johnson, Frank L. Niles.

In 1925 the town appropriated the sum of \$2,500 for the erection of a memorial, and this was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1925.

Located on the smooth lawn south of the Damon Memorial building, the granite base which surrounds a forty foot steel flag staff contains tablets on its four sides upon which are inscribed the names of the Holden men who served in the World War and those who lost their lives therein.

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 42

The Woman's Auxiliary to the American Legion in Holden was organized June 10, 1920.

First officers were: Mrs. Lottie J. Kohlstrom, President; Miss Edith David, Vice-President. In March, 1921, Miss Edith M. Howe was chosen Historian.

That year, in November, the auxiliary had the honor of sending its president, Mrs. Kohlstrom, as the first delegate from Worcester county to the first national convention, which was held in Kansas City.

Each year since its organization members of the auxiliary have worked energetically raising funds to carry on their broad program of service for World War veterans and their families.

There have been entertainments, dances, whist parties, lawn parties, an annual play, and in the spring a "poppy" sale is held.

Auxiliary members assist in the Memorial Day activities, and bring cheer to the disabled veterans in Rutland at Christmas time by providing trees and gifts for them. The patients are also remembered on Easter and on Mother's Day.

Gold Star Mothers are also remembered on special days.

The auxiliary contributed largely toward the tablets erected on the Quinapoxit and Unionville schools in honor of Holden boys who died in the World War.

In 1927 Mrs. Lottie J. Kohlstrom was the Massachusetts delegate to the national convention in France.

She took with her a box of soil to be scattered on a battlefield in France.



July 20 and 21, 1928, the first Legion Carnival was held.

Since then the Legion and Auxiliary have co-operated in making this one of the outstanding events of the year.

The auxiliary presented a flag to the Chaffins School in 1929, and one to the Post on February 28, 1933.

October 1, 1935, they held a joint installation with the Post in the new Legion home on Main Street.

That year the Sons of Legionnaires marched for the first time in the Memorial Day parade.

May 25, 1939, a flag and staff were presented to the Senior Girl Scouts.

May 30, 1939, the Junior Drum Corps made its initial appearance.

## SONS OF THE LEGION

These were organized in 1935.

Members joined in the line of march with other patriotic organizations on Memorial Day and assisted in other activities of the day.

As their work paralleled that of an older organization, the Boy Scouts, they were disbanded in 1941, but about thirty of the former members are now functioning as a very promising Junior Drum Corps, whose local and out-of-town engagements have won very favorable recognition.

## THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY

This was organized in 1939 with a membership of thirty. Its first chairman was Mary Ann Moroski.

## HOLDEN TROWEL CLUB

On June 1, 1920, all members of the Masonic Fraternity, living in Holden and vicinity, were invited to gather at the Community House to discuss the advisability of forming a Masonic Club in Holden.

A delegation of Grotto Club members from Worcester, including H. E. Davis, H. A. Inett, W. Vernon Inett and W. R. Livingston were present to aid in the forming of the new organization.

Benjamin H. Robbins, for the committee, gave an outline of suggested plans. After these were discussed, the nominating committee presented for officers, the following names: President, Dr. Frank H. Washburn; Vice-President, Dr. John P. Rand; Secretary, Frank H. Cate; Treasurer, Henry S. Muzzy. These men were elected.

Forty-four of the number present signified their intention of becoming charter members and the charter being held open until September, the membership then numbered 57 active and 12 honorary members.

By-laws were adopted, and it was voted to call the club "Holden Masonic Club," and to take over the equipment of the "Town Club."

In addition to the regular entertainment furnished its members, the organization has sponsored pool tournaments, pitch parties, an annual ball, clambakes, and Ladies' Nights.

It has contributed to Holden Hospital, Washington Memorial Fund and various other worthy causes.





BOYDEN HOMESTEAD







In July, 1922, the Club acquired the property housing their activities which had been known as the Holden Community House.†

April 4, 1924, the Club's name was changed to "Holden Trowel Club."

## HOLDEN CIVIC LEAGUE

This Society was organized April 10, 1928, with representatives from the following organizations present: Holden Trowel Club, Captain George Webb Chapter, D. A. R., Holden Woman's Club, Wachusett Chapter, No. 131, O. E. S., Asnebumskit Tribe of Red Men, Chaffins Sick Benefit Society, Holden Men's Union, American Legion and Holden Grange.

Mr. Frank E. Cook was chosen chairman and Mrs. Milton F. Beecher, secretary.

The object of the League was similar to that of the Village Improvement Society—the betterment of the town. It was instrumental in having sidewalks built on many of the streets in the center of town.

The last meeting of the League was held on October 17, 1932.

## HOLDEN TEACHERS' CLUB

In the spring of 1931 James R. Childs, superintendent of schools, called a meeting to consider forming a club to be affiliated with the State Teachers' Federa-

---

† Located at the corner of Main and Maple Streets, opposite the Baptist Church.

tion, and October 11, 1931, the club was organized with the following officers:

President, Mabel N. Smith, Chaffins School; Vice-President, Mary L. Cawley, Rice School; Secretary, Loretta C. Rice, Jefferson School; Treasurer, Herbert Grayson, High School.

The Club has sponsored various projects for the benefit of the schools, conducted entertainment programs, and has had approximately 100% membership in the National Education Association.

## HOLDEN OUTDOOR SPORTS CLUB

Holden Outdoor Sports Club was organized October 7, 1931, and Article 2 of their Constitution states that "The object of this Club shall be to advance interest in out-of-door sports and to promote the spirit of fellowship among the women of Holden and to cooperate with other organizations having similar objects."

The first officers to serve were: President, Mrs. Mabel Smith; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Winifred Rose; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Helen Spofford; Treasurer, Mrs. Edith Handy; Historian, Mrs. Helen Spofford.

For ten years this club has provided a varied program of outdoor activity which has been a source of healthful enjoyment to its participants.



## CHAFFINS SCHOOL AND HOME CLUB AND CHAFFINS PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

This club was organized May 5, 1931, in the Chaffins School by a group of mothers and friends having a keen interest in the welfare of the school and the community.

Its object was "to bring home and school into closer relationship." Officers elected were: President, Mrs. John R. Wentworth; Vice-President, Miss Frieda Parker; Secretary, Mrs. William H. Mason; Treasurer, Mrs. Carl A. Carpenter.

Through the members' efforts many valuable additions to the school equipment were made. Among these were two pianos, drinking fountains, and library books.

They also sponsored canning and 4-H Clubs.

The club held its last meeting in June, 1933.

The group reorganized in the fall of 1933 as Chaffins Parent-Teacher Association with Mrs. Carpenter as President, and Mrs. Wentworth as Treasurer, and with aims and activities similar to those of the first organization.

They were disbanded in 1937 or '38.

## JEFFERSON PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The first meeting of the Association was held on Wednesday evening, October 7, 1931, in the Jefferson School building.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. F. Boyden Kelton; Vice-President, Mrs. James Armstrong; Secretary, Mrs. William Converse; Treasurer, Mrs. Edward Dickman, Jr.

It was voted to hold a meeting the first Wednesday of each school month.

Members held whist parties, motion picture shows and cake sales, using the proceeds to sponsor Dental Clinics, Christmas Parties, Class Trips and playground equipment. The substantial steel flag pole which stands in the school yard was given by the Association.

Francis L. Coe aided generously these projects whereby parents and teachers united their best efforts to train the children to be good citizens, and a help to their fellow men.

Members feel that much has been accomplished by the association in promoting greater friendship between parents and teachers, and this in itself is of great benefit to the children.

## HOLDEN PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The Holden Parent-Teacher Association was organized September 26, 1932, in the auditorium of the High School, and the record of that first meeting states that "The Holden Parent-Teacher Association has



federated with the Massachusetts Parent-Teacher Association and has adopted the by-laws and policies of the national organization.

The following were the first officers: President, Mrs. William W. Peabody; Vice-President, Mrs. Henry S. Muzzy; Secretary, Mrs. Mary L. Drawbridge; Treasurer, Mrs. H. W. Rowell; Historian, Mrs. Harold B. James.

Following the election, Mrs. Joseph Beals led a discussion on "What to Do with Our Emotions."

The association was organized with the following objectives in view: (1) To promote child welfare in the home, school, church, and community; to raise the standards of home life; to secure more adequate laws for the care and protection of women and children. (2) To bring into closer relation the home and school that parents and teachers may co-operate intelligently in the training of the child; to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantage in physical, mental, and spiritual education.

With these goals in view, many splendid programs have been presented each year, and this association has held an important place in the betterment of the community life.

## THE HOLDEN GARDEN CLUB

Holden Garden Club was organized at the home of Mrs. Nason H. Arnold on June 5, 1933, where they elected as their first officers Mrs. J. G. Leighton, President, and Mrs. J. Quincy Dix, Secretary.

Each year their programs are given over to topics relating to some phase of floriculture, and at least one fine flower show is held annually, and occasional visits are made to places of especial interest to flower lovers.

### HOLDEN JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB

This Junior Club was organized January 18, 1934, with Mrs. Myrtle Hemenway as Advisor. There were 42 charter members.

Its object was to promote friendship among its members and to render service to its community.

The first officers elected were: President, Cynthia Harrington; Vice-President, Marion Bemis; Secretary, Eleanor Joslin; Treasurer, Ruth Boyden. Committee Chairmen were Louise Piper, Iris Howes, Elizabeth Kingdon, and Marjorie Hodges.

This group of young women sponsored some excellent programs and their organization continued its activity until 1935, the last meeting being held on June 4 of that year.

### HOLDEN GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scouts were organized January 30, 1934, under the direction of Florence L. Holton, Captain, and Elizabeth Kingdon, First Lieutenant.

Assisting them was a troop committee consisting of Mrs. Ernest H. Meyer, Mrs. Raleigh Bubar, Mrs. Laurence Cross, Mrs. James Childs and Mrs. A. Kirke Warren.

There were forty-eight members at the time of organization.



In 1941 there are two Scout troops, Number 1, The White Rose, with Miss Marjorie Hodges as Captain, and Number 2, The Thistle, with Mrs. Milton F. Beecher as Captain.

### HOLDEN MERCHANTS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

In October, 1940, through the efforts of Leslie Gray and Willis Rowell, this club was organized as a boys' movement, in the Y.M.C.A.

There were eighteen original members, all high school graduates, and the first officers were as follows:

President: Leslie Gray

Vice-President: Willis Rowell

Secretary: Bernard Powers

Treasurer: Benjamin Holden

The aim of the club is to bring about friendly communication among the younger people of the town and to teach them to assume civic responsibilities.

Meetings are held each month in the High School Building.

### CHAFFINS MOTHER'S CLUB

This club was organized January 8, 1941, in the Chaffins Grammar School Building. "Its purpose is to serve Chaffins Grammar School through financial help, and to work for a better understanding and co-operation of school and community."

The first officers to serve were: President, Mrs. Marshall H. Paquette; Vice-President, Mrs. Wilfred E. Potvin; Secretary, Mrs. Alice L. Humes; Treasurer, Miss Catherine MacDonald.





## *Chapter XVI*

# Old Houses

---

The old houses mentioned here are but a few of the many homes in Holden which were built when the town was young, and, were there time to search out the history of all, the result would be an accumulation of facts of much interest.

### REV. JOSEPH AVERY HOUSE

On the hillside, up Avery Street, stands the house built by Rev. Joseph Avery, pastor of the Congregational Church from 1774 to 1824.

The house built by Mr. Avery in 1774, faces the east, and from its sightly location one may look over the town to the blue hills of Princeton, and on a clear day Mount Monadnock, in New Hampshire, may be seen.

It was for many years the home of Charles W. Phillips and from him it passed to Miss Mae Fitman, the present occupant.

### BOYDEN HOUSE

This house, located on Boyden Road, nearly opposite the entrance to the Holden District Hospital, was built in 1780, on what was then the main road leading into Holden Center, from the south.

A store of very early date occupied the two front rooms where today may be seen the beautiful hand-

wrought flower design which tops the wainscoting and fireplace in the living room.

Six generations of the Boyden family have lived in this house, the present owner being Mrs. Lucy (Boyden) Kelton.

### DR. ISAAC CHENERY HOUSE

This occupied the site of the present Damon Memorial Building, and was built by Rev. Horatio Bardwell, pastor of the Congregational Church from 1823 to 1833.

### ASA AND IRA BROAD HOUSES

The substantially built brick house at the junction of Broad and North Main Streets, built in 1730, was the home of Ira Broad.

Its next owner was Horace B. Morse, and in 1884 the property was purchased by Edwin J. Miles and it is today the home of his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Delia T. Miles.

The beauty of the early type of architecture of the house, with its spacious grounds attractively landscaped, make it a landmark to persons passing through that section of the town.

The second house from Park Avenue, on North Main Street, now owned by C. Arthur Marsh, was the home of Asa Broad. It is said that this house was built of lumber from houses formerly standing on Kendall Road, which were demolished by the cyclone of 1871.



Asa and Ira Broad built and operated the mills on Broad Street which were later owned by Waldo E. Austin.

A number of houses in town were built by them.

Both brothers represented the town twice in the Legislature, and Ira Broad held important offices in the town for twenty-five years.

## CHAFFIN HOUSES

Names of various members of the Chaffin family appeared frequently in the early history of the town.

The large white house on the northeast corner of Shrewsbury and South Main Streets, now the home of William H. Swenson, was formerly owned by Alfred Chaffin, who was active in town affairs nearly a century ago.

Down the hill to the east were the homes of C. Knowlton, Royal H. Chaffin, and Charles R. Hill. The mill business begun here in 1817 by Royal H. Chaffin was, in the 70's, being continued by his son, Alfred H.

Many of the finely executed early maps of Holden are the workmanship of Charles Chaffin, who held various town offices for many years, including that of postmaster in 1853.

†A Chicago collector, Alden Scott Boyer, president of the Boyer Chemical Company, is owner of a license

---

† Thanks is extended to Mrs. Walter F. Hopkins for calling attention to an item which appeared in the September, 1941 Hobbies Magazine.

issued in 1814 which may be the forerunner of the present-day automobile license.

It reads: "No. 804—

"This is to certify, that John Chafin—of the town of Holden, in the County of Worcester, in the sixteenth Collection District of Massachusetts, has paid the duty of two dollars for the year to end on the 31st of December next for and upon a two wheel carriage for the conveyance of persons hanging on wooden springs—called a chaise, owned by him.

"This certificate to be of no avail longer than the aforesaid carriage shall be owned by the said Chafin unless said certificate shall be produced to the collector by whom it was granted, and an entry made thereon, specifying the name of the then owner of said carriage, and the time when he or she became possessed thereof.

"Given in conformity with an act of the Congress of the United States, passed on the 24th day of July, 1813." "Worcester, Jan. 22, 1814. Wm. Eaton, Collector of the Revenue for the sixteenth Collection District of Massachusetts."

This license was formerly in the collection of Thomas B. Jeffery, builder of the Rambler Bike and Auto.

John Chafin was selectman in Holden from 1812-1816 and representative in 1831.

### CYRUS CHENERY HOUSE

This old colonial house on the southerly side of Shrewsbury Street, a short distance below Doyle Road,



was built more than one hundred years ago by Cyrus Chenery, grandson of Dr. Isaac Chenery.

Substantially built "double" stone walls enclosed its fields, and the house was surrounded by the numerous buildings considered necessary at that time for the operation of a large farm.

Stage coaches stopped here on their trips to and from Boston, and tradition states that money was hidden in the cellar during Civil War Days.

Two seventh generation descendants of Isaac Chenery, 1st, are living in Holden today. Miss Mary Frances Chenery and Mrs. Frank H. Cate.

In 1872, the Chenerys sold the place to Albion K. P. Lougee, who sold it in 1881 to Elnathan Truesdell, in whose family it remained until sold by his son Carroll E. Truesdell in 1939.

## DAMON HOUSE

Directly after the removal of the first meeting house from its position on the corner of Highland and Main Streets in March, 1791 the original Damon house was built with a store adjoining.

The east end of the house was built of brick, but even tradition does not suggest a reason for this.

The house was first occupied by one Miles, who sold to Samuel Damon about 1800, and since that time the site has been occupied by some member of the Damon family, the last one being Harry Chenery Damon, who died July 28, 1935. In 1941, his widow, Annie C. Damon continues to reside in the house built on the same location directly after the original buildings were destroyed by fire on May 16, 1901.

## DAVIS-FLAGG HOUSE

The brown house west of the Baptist Parsonage was built by Ethan Davis, Senior, in 1879.

It then contained but four rooms, each one with a fireplace.

In 1819, he gave the place to his son, Thomas Jones Davis upon his marriage to Silence Clapp. They had one daughter, Isabella G. who married Rev. James F. Clarke, and went as a missionary to Turkey.

The two southern spruce trees standing today on either side of the front door were brought from Tampa, Florida by Mrs. Clarke, while a missionary there.

In 1863, the house was purchased from Mr. Davis by Charles Flagg who increased the number of rooms to fifteen.

Mr. Flagg was the son of Deacon Silas Flagg and grandson of Benjamin Flagg who settled in 1680, on a large farm (now part of Worcester Reservoir) at the foot of Stone House Hill.

Benjamin Flagg took a very active part in the early wars and held many important town offices in Worcester and in Holden.

His son, Richard Flagg, was representative in 1779 when the constitution was framed.

The early school in the Flagg district was held in his home, and he gave land for the first school house here.

Charles Flagg served the town as Selectman and Town Treasurer and was active in the affairs of the Congregational Church.

The house is still occupied by his descendents, Mrs. Walter F. Gilbert, (Emma Hubbard) being his great



grand daughter and she is also a descendent of the Davis family.

### ETHAN DAVIS PLACE

Ethan Davis, Senior, or Squire Ethan, as he was called, was born in Holden, in 1766, and lived in what is the Mt. Pleasant House.

He was the youngest son of Captain James Davis, who held numerous town offices, and was prominent in the early history of Holden.

Like his father, Ethan, Senior, was an extensive land owner.

He served the town as follows: Selectman, thirteen years, Treasurer, twenty-one years, and Representative, three years, Assessor, three years.

Of his ten children, the youngest, Ethan, Jr. born in the old house, continued living there.

### REV. JOSEPH DAVIS HOUSE

The "red house" as it was familiarly known and built by Mr. Davis, first pastor of the Town of Holden, stood at the corner of Armington Lane and Highland Street on the site of the present home of William W. Peabody.

This was for many years the property of Samuel W. Armington, and was then known as Pine Grove Farm. Among town offices held by Mr. Armington was that of postmaster from 1866-1885.

### JOHN DODD HOUSE

The white house on the left side of Kendall Road (formerly Dodd Road) going from Main Street was the home of John Dodd.

His father, James, was born in Ireland in 1724. Because of ill treatment, after the death of his father when James was about twelve years of age, he worked his passage to America, and on arriving here without money or friends, and with all his possessions tied up in a handkerchief, he applied to William Shirley, Provincial Governor of Massachusetts, for work. The Governor at once provided him with a loom and gave him work.

His fabric was of so fine a texture that the Governor sent a portion of it to England as a specimen of American product and manufacture, the first that went from this country. He married in 1747, and his three sons James, John, and William were born in Bedford.

About 1763 he purchased a farm of 300 acres in Holden.

His son John served in the Revolution, and held offices in Holden as follows: Representative in the General Court, 1792-1801, and was appointed a justice in 1793. Selectmen, 1794-1797. Town Clerk, 1790-1801.

In the old burying ground may be seen the gravestone of Colonel William Dodd who died September 7, 1813, and that of his two sons, John, age 2, and James, 9 months, who died September 18, 1813, "both buried in one coffin."

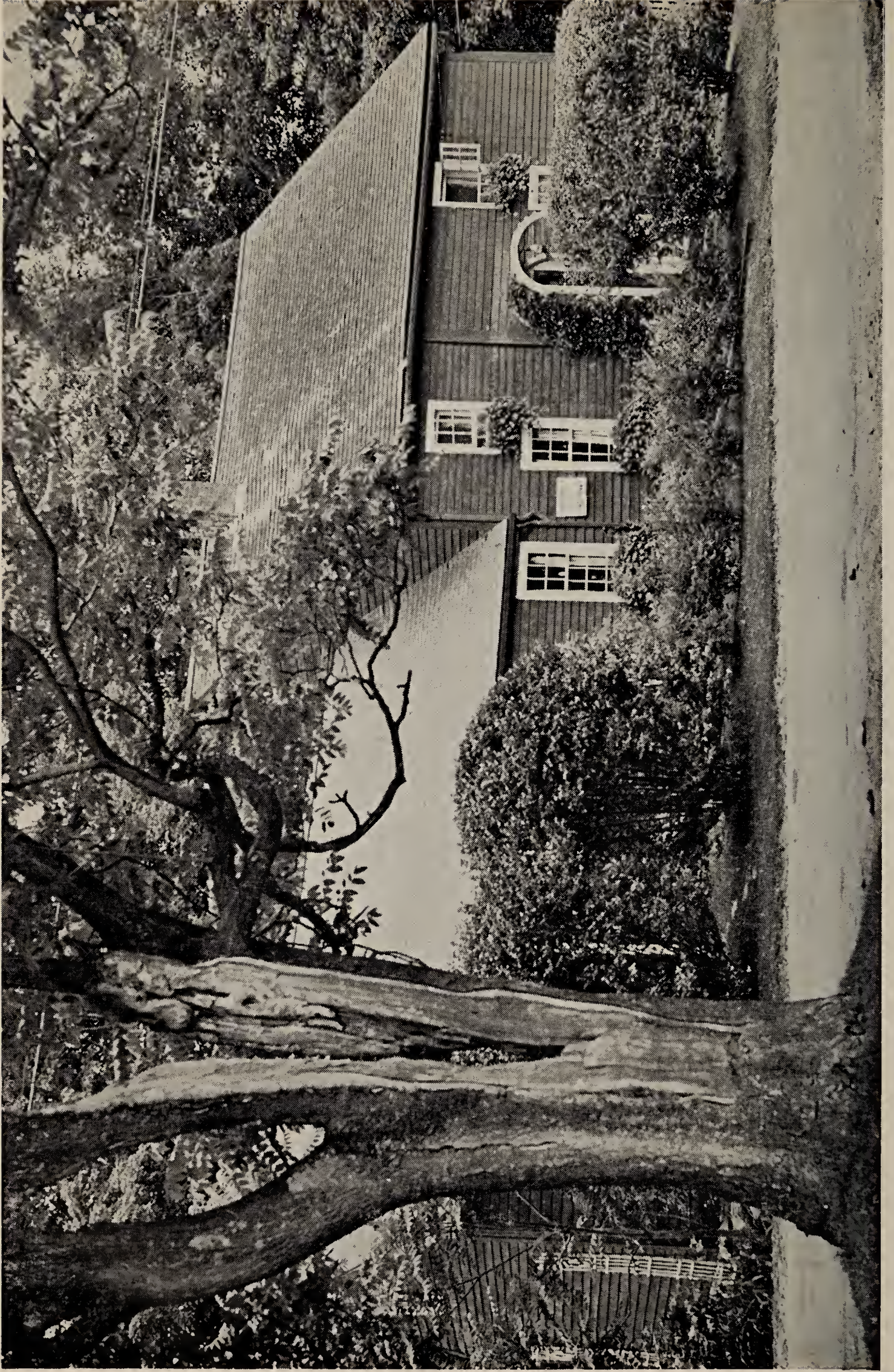
## WILLIAM DRURY HOUSE

Just over the brow of the hill on the right, going toward Worcester, on Brattle Street, formerly known as Drury Hill, stands the Drury house, built of bricks, which were made in a nearby kiln.









ABBOTT HOUSE



William Drury came from Shrewsbury and built here in 1767. The first house was burned and the present one of brick was erected on the site.

An interesting feature is the hand wrought panel over the front door.

Mr. Drury served the town as representative four times and for eight years as selectman.

## FALES HOMESTEADS

James Fales, second, came to Holden about 1679 and built a rough hewn cabin on the present location of the Blue Plate Bar on South Main Street.

The house faced Chaffins Pond, the road being then a mere trail used by the Indians.

According to family records this was the second house to be built near Holden Center, the first being the Sawyer homestead.

It is said that Mr. Fales carried the first plow into Holden on his back. His home was burned by the Indians in 1690 and he removed to Dedham.

His son Lemuel who served actively throughout the Revolution came to Holden in 1787 and purchased three hundred acres of land and built a brick house on the location of the "Toombs" place on South Main Street, a short distance from the first Fales home. He married Elizabeth Hannah White, niece of the first white child born in America.

This Fales home was burned in 1800 and a poem describing the home life there and the burning of the house was illustrated by a series of exquisite pencil drawings by his daughter Eleanor.

Her diary of 1836 mentions her attendance at the select school taught by Miss Martha Paine, sister of Dr. William P. Paine, in the Damon Hall. Later this school was held in the town hall.

Miss Fales was a gifted artist and taught oil painting for many years. She married Cyrus G. Phelps and both were charter members of Holden Grange.

The Fales house on the south side of Malden Street was built by William, son of Lemuel, and is now the home of Roger M., a grandson of William Fales.

Some believe this to be the oldest house in Holden.

It is said to have been at one time the location of a chair factory, also, that wooden clocks were made there by Samuel S. Stratton.

Samuel Fales, a brother of William, attended school in Holden. Later he removed to Canton, where he became superintendent of the Paul Revere foundry. While there he cast the bell for the Congregational Church of Holden and assisted in casting the bell which now hangs in the place of the original Liberty Bell.

In 1844 he purchased the Jason Knowlton farm in Holden and spent his last years there.

This colonial house on South Main Street opposite Bailey Road is now the home of his grand daughter E. Marybell Fales.

Each room in the house has its large fireplace, those on the first floor with ovens, and besides the one in the living room is a built-in high back "settle," made when the house was built.



## THE FROST HOMESTEAD

The history of this fine old brick house on Whitney Street dates back to pre-Revolutionary days.

The present owners have a record of its having been sold by Ethan Davis, Senior, in 1803 to Dana Frost who married Patty, the youngest sister of Mr. Davis.

In 1859, Dolly Howard of Leicester, purchased the place from Sewell and Stillman Worster, of Milford. Other owners have been George and Lucinda Goddard, Horace Howard, David Holbrook and James Holden who sold to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Horsefall in 1938.

The exterior walls of the strongly built house are one foot in thickness and show no signs of weakening.

The windows all have their original casings, fastened together with wooden pegs, as are the hand hewn chestnut beams in living and dining rooms.

Many of the window panes are the original glass, beautifully colored by age.

There are eight fireplaces in the house, the one in the original 38 foot kitchen had brick ovens at either end.

The woodwork and wainscoting in all rooms is hand carved, and old hand wrought hinges and latches still decorate the fine old "Christian doors."

## SILAS M. HUBBARD HOUSE

On the hill at the right after passing through Quinapoxet, on the road to Princeton stands the spacious homestead formerly occupied by Silas M. Hubbard. Across the street a new barn has replaced the old one destroyed in the 1938 hurricane.

Mr. Hubbard served as deacon of the Congregational Church for twenty-six years, and his father, Elisha Hubbard served in the same capacity for twenty-one years, and was five times chosen selectman and was assessor for fifteen years.

### MASON HOMESTEAD

This is located on Mason Road, five miles north of Holden center, and was built in 1818 by J. J. Kendall.

Of Colonial type, the house still retains its original doors made with pegs in place of nails, and with hand forged hinges, two feet long and having the original latches.

Nearly every room has a fire place and brick oven of the finest type, and many of the rooms still retain their old colonial type of wainscoting with hand made dado trim, which also decorates the exterior of the house.

The wall paper in the parlor, finely preserved was put on when the house was built, and is said to have been the first wall paper to be used in Holden.

Following Mr. Kendall the place was owned by Solomon Parmenter, Samuel Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Willie H. Mason, and by their son Orrin W. and his wife, who are the present occupants of the homestead.

### JONATHAN MOORE HOUSE

Jonathan Moore was born in Tatnuck but came to Holden when a youth, enlisting in the Revolution in 1775.

In 1780, he built a home on Reservoir Street, near the Worcester line and was one of the first members of



the school board in that district. His farm comprised a large part of the land in that locality.

His son Newell, who continued living on the home place until 1850 served the town as selectman and was a deacon of the Congregational Church for 16 years.

When the Worcester Reservoir was built the original house was moved over the Worcester line about 50 rods and is today in use as a dwelling.

### NEWELL HOMESTEAD

In December, 1778, Aaron Newell bought fifty acres of land from David Ballou on what is now Newell Road, and some part of the original farm was occupied by his descendants for more than one hundred and fifty-five years.

The homestead, built on a knoll on the east side of the highway, overlooked broad acres of meadow land, through which a brook marked its uneven course.

When manufacturing began in Chaffins, the meadows were flooded, and the area became Chaffins Pond as we see it today.

The homestead, now owned by the William Olson family, was equipped with fire places, brick ovens and in the ell a huge "built-in" brass kettle with brick fire box underneath was used when large quantities of hot water were required.

The house next below, built by the writer's father, J. Albert Newell in 1879, was his home for fifty-four years, and just beyond, on the opposite side of the road, close to the hillside, stands the house which was erected for Mary and Susan Newell, who died in 1835, aged

sixty-six years. The following mention of them is made in the Damon and Estes histories.

"These individuals were twin sisters, lived most of their days in a family and home by themselves, often expressed a wish that they might die together, which desire was almost literally granted, as one died at one o'clock P.M. and the other at eleven o'clock the same day.

"They were buried in the same grave and in the same coffin."

### DR. WILLIAM P. PAINE HOUSE

The second house from the northwest corner of Highland and Walnut Streets was the parsonage occupied by Dr. Paine during his long pastorate at the Congregational Church.

The family moved into it when his youngest daughter Laura Mack, who was born in what is now the Trowel Club Building, was a very young child, and it remained their home until the death of Dr. Paine in 1876.

In the 80's the place was sold to Mr. Marcus Moore whose family occupied it until it was sold in 1916 to the William J. Jamiesons, the present owners.

### TIMOTHY PARKER PLACE

On Shrewsbury Street just beyond the transmitting station may be seen the ruins of the colonial homestead of Timothy Parker, Jr., descendent of a long line of patriots.

Six sons in one family served in the Revolution. Mr. Parker settled in Holden about 1792. In early man-



hood he raised a company and served as Lieutenant and then as Captain in the French and Indian War.

## THE "RED HOUSE AND BARN"

The red house west of the postoffice is one of Holden's oldest houses.

At the rear, extending to the present postoffice building stood a large red barn, for many years a well known landmark.

Three sub cellars were dug deeply into the ground under the barn, and these were used as a refuge from the indians and as a secret supply base for guns and ammunition during the French and Indian Wars and the Revolution.

In the former, war supplies and ammunition were relayed from this base by ox-cart to the settlers in the western part of the state.

From the third sub cellar of the barn a passage ran to a single sub cellar beneath the back part of the "red house." The cellars averaged about eight feet in height.

Shortly before the Revolution the house was rebuilt, the second floor being made into a hall where recruits were hurriedly trained for service in the Revolution.

At the time that the corner room was used as a post-office, a cobblers shop occupied space in the basement.

In 1873, the property was purchased by Charles Flagg, who tore down the barn and remodeled the house, adding the piazza in front, and having water piped to the house from the town well.

## COLONEL ISAAC NEWTON ROSS HOUSE

The large house on the northeast corner of Phillips Road and Highland Street was built by Charles Gleason and later became the home of Colonel Ross.

He was born in Hanover, New Hampshire, but later removed to Darbyville, Ohio, where in 1861 he was commissioned Colonel of the Ninetieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was in active service until his health failed in March, 1863.

In 1867, he came to live in Holden, being then superintendent of the Boston, Barre and Gardner Railroad.

His death occurred in 1881, and at his own written request his body was sent to Washington, Pennsylvania, for cremation.

This being the first instance of cremation in New England, it caused widespread criticism and comment.

The pages devoted to his biography in the Estes history are of exceedingly great interest.

The place was next owned by Oscar Phillips whose family sold it in 1912 to the Frank J. Knowltons, who remained there until 1928, when they sold to the Edwin F. Goulds, the present owners.

## ROGERS HOMESTEAD

This house on Boyden Road next west of the Captain Webb house dates back to 1772 or earlier.

Until purchased recently by Mrs. William J. Jamieson from Walter S. Rogers, it had remained in the Rogers family since 1854, when it was sold to them by Justin Ware. An early owner was Charles Damon.

The original fire places are still in evidence, a brick oven adjoining the one in the kitchen.



## WARREN HOMESTEAD

Located on North Main Street a short distance west of its junction with High Street, this roomy colonial homestead was formerly the home of Heman Richardson, who in 1789 became owner of the tannery which stood in the rear of the house.

In 1838, Waterman G. Warren came to Holden from Auburn and engaged in the tannery business which was continued by his sons until 1917.

On the death of the father, his son Samuel became owner of the Homestead and in addition to his business activities, Mr. Warren served on the Board of Selectmen, of the Assessors, and for six years as a member of the School Committee. In 1867, he was representative to the State Legislature.

Mrs. Marion (Lakin) Warren also served for some years as a member of the School Committee, and was active in the local W. C. T. U., and in the Congregational Church, serving as President of the Woman's Society for more than twenty-five years.

Their son Arthur K. and his wife Helen (Trask) Warren, the present owners of the Homestead take an active part in the organizations and community life of the town.

## CAPTAIN GEORGE WEBB HOUSE

The Captain George Webb house on Boyden Road, now the home of the Edgar W. Holdens, was built about 1798, and came into the possession of Captain Webb, in 1818.

The house, strongly built, with hand hewn timbers, originally had a large central chimney with three fire-

places, and the cellar stairs were made of solid blocks of oak.†

In 1828, Captain Webb deeded the place to his daughter.

Simon Abbot, a grandson of Captain Webb lived for many years in the house directly across the street.

---

† The ballot boxes used by the Captain George Webb Chapter D. A. R. were made from one of these blocks.



## *Chapter XVII*

# Bicentennial Celebration

---

At a town meeting on February 10, 1940, it was voted that the moderator appoint a committee of five to consider all matters relating to the appropriate observance of the 200th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Holden, and the following persons were named to serve in that capacity: Hastings Hawkes, chairman, Ella M. Harrington, Einar A. Larson, Walter W. Gleason, J. Stanley Holt.

This committee began at once to make plans for the celebration of this most important milestone in the history of the town.

For the expenses of the celebration, and the cost of a new history of Holden, the town appropriated the sum of \$2700.

Mr. Hawkes being unable to continue his services, resigned on March 28, 1941, and Milton F. Beecher was made a member of the committee, with J. Stanley Holt as chairman.

The first observance was held on the anniversary of the incorporation of the town.

### 200TH ANNIVERSARY\*

At six o'clock, on Sunday morning, May 4, 1941, in Holden Center, the thermometer registered 38 degrees. Snow falling two days before was "gone by night."

---

\* An album of pictures taken during this Bicentennial celebration may be found in the Gale Free Public Library.

A delicate white mist lay over the distant hills, but overhead the sky was clear and bright.

At the appointed time the church bells, which, for so many years had called the townspeople to worship, sounded their clear notes, and people assembled in their various church homes.

In some, the regular church service was conducted, but in front of the Congregational Church the usual line of automobiles was not seen.

Instead, people walked to the church, many in beautiful old time costumes, and reverently entered the well filled sanctuary.

The stained glass likeness of that "first church" was outlined against the bright blue sky as the youthful pastor, in dress of other days, stood to give the Call to Worship, and it seemed, in truth, that the spirit of the past and present were mingled in the service which will long be remembered by those who witnessed it.

The Order of Worship follows.

Pastor of the Church, Rev. Robert Lee Dutton, presiding.

ORGAN PRELUDE    Familiar hymns written long ago.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Pastor

"Holiness becometh thy house, (O Lord)". These words from the 93rd Psalm, words which for so many years graced the front of this room, fittingly open our 200th anniversary service. With a sense of the dignity and the importance of what we are doing, we endeavor to combine on this day the past, the present, and the future. The occasion itself renders us solemn.



Yet solemnity does not mean unabated grimness. The sparkle of life is here, and must be here.

Our purpose today is not particularly to live in the past. No attempt has been made to reconstruct a service as it might have been at some stated time in years gone by. Rather do we endeavor to make ourselves especially conscious of the present. It is in 1941 that we live. We want to live more nobly in this present year and in the years ahead. By bringing before us elements from the past we are impressed with what a heritage is ours. We have been bought with a price. Words of our historical addresses will lay this upon our hearts. But striking home with equal effect will be evidence of past life appealing to our senses. As we sing to the stately tune of Old Hundred let us realize that 100 years ago almost to the hour a congregation in this room sang these same words to the same tune. By the custom of deaconing and by the words of this hymn we go in imagination back to the founding of the town 200 years ago.

Other elements in the service will remind you of other years in our span of two hundred. Some in costume of long, long ago; others in dress of more recent time. Words from men who honored this pulpit in the recent past, a prayer from the observance of 50 years ago. By these tokens the past has come alive in the present. Indeed this mixture of the old and the new enriches the melody of life, blending the deep and the solid with that which as yet still seeks its permanent lodging. Fifty and one hundred years ago you would have entered this building led by music of a band. Today you enter by music brought to you by powers

released only within the century, yea of the half century. But that music played to you from a book in use in this church 50 years ago brings to you strength from the past. We are reminded of the words of Jesus who said "the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man who bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old." (Matt.: 13-52.)

Let us hear a formal call to worship from the order of service in use at about the turn of the last century.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth. . . . Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near. . . . I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil. And ye shall seek of me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. . . .

Let us as it would have been said a hundred years ago, address the Throne of Grace, with all at the end joining in the prayer of the ages: Eternal God, mark Thou this day upon our hearts. May our spirits perceive the significance of our worship here in this place this hour. Grant that from this union of the past with the present we may receive renewal of life, causing us to rededicate all our powers to the service of God through our loyalty to his Son, Our Lord, through Whom we pray, even as He taught us, saying:

The Lord's Prayer.



THE CENTENNIAL HYMN    Tune, Old Hundred  
Deaconed by Mr. Gilbert Moore, and sung by all.

One hundred years have roll'd away,  
    Unrealized, unseen, unfelt,  
Since first before thine altars here,  
    O, God! our holy fathers knelt.  
First in their noble thoughts and plans,  
    The love and worship, Lord of Thee;  
The, the strong training of their youth,  
    The love of Man and Liberty.  
And here we meet—remembering those  
    Who laid these first foundations well,  
That, o'er their honored dust, one strain,  
    Of triumph and of love may swell.  
And now we bend before Thee, here,  
    Stand on the ground our fathers trod;  
Be Thou our strength, our life, our light,  
    Our own, as once OUR FATHER'S GOD.

(Written by J. H. Bancroft)

READING OF THE SCRIPTURE      Psalm 103

THE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL PRAYER

As delivered by Rev. William Howe, in 1891.

THE OFFERING

Offertory selection Andante Cantabile, *Tschaikowsky*.

## GREETINGS FROM THE LIVING FORMER PASTORS

Rev. George E. Cary	1912-1919
Rev. Charles O. Eames	1922-1931
Rev. P. Virgil Harris	1931-1935

## A HYMN BY THE LATE PASTOR EMERITUS

Tune: Duke Street,  
written by Rev. Thomas Earle Babb,  
pastor of this church, 1892-1912.

O God of wisdom, God of love,  
Whose Temple is the Heaven above,  
Thine earthly church its voice would raise  
To join the heavenly songs of praise.  
It was the "still small voice" that spoke  
So clear that sinful souls awoke  
To leave the downward road of night  
And seek the path of truth and light.  
So came this fellowship of souls  
And more are seeking higher goals  
So Thou hast given the life divine  
The love that wrought it all was Thine.  
O God of wisdom, God of Grace  
Make Thou the Church, Thy dwelling place  
And may its light shine forth abroad  
The light of Life—The light of God.

## A HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Mrs. William H. Warren

Read by William H. Warren, Jr.





CAPTAIN G. WEBB HOUSE







## ANTHEM "The Heavens Are Declaring"

*Beethoven*

## HISTORICAL ADDRESS "A Heritage Is Ours"

Mrs. Hastings Hawkes

## BICENTENNIAL HYMN Tune: St. Margaret

O, God Who gathered in of old,  
Our Fathers, when, their battle won,  
They learned, content, their hands to fold,  
No longer need for courage bold,  
And shadows turned to sun.  
Help us today to hold through Thee  
The faith that justice maketh might,  
To dare to keep Thy people free,  
And still to pray on bended knee.  
The prayers blessed in Thy sight.  
O, God of battle as of peace,  
Our hills of home stand safe and strong,  
We pray that wars afar shall cease  
And stricken peoples find release,  
Their weeping turned to song.  
O, God show us Thy holy Will  
That we Thy banner high shall bear,  
Lord of our fathers, lead us still,  
While we Thy prophecies fulfill,  
And know Thy love and care.

(Written by Helen Abbott Beals for this occasion.)

## BENEDICTION (Congregation remaining standing)

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION (Congregation seated)

CHORAL RESPONSE

ORGAN POSTLUDE

### SERVICE OF RE-DEDICATION\*

May 4, 1941

Throughout the day sunny skies favored the happy observance of Holden's 200th birthday, and patches of golden forsythia with bright colored tulips and borders lined with purple violets, added to the beauty of the scene, as, from far and near, people gathered in the High School Auditorium for the service which would complete the day's celebration.

The decorations were in charge of John W. Mattson, who made effective use of geraniums, petunias and ageratum in the national colors, with a setting of evergreens, and a large American flag in the background.

The opening number was the singing of "Faith of Our Fathers" by the Community Chorus of a hundred voices from Holden Church choirs. This was directed by Mrs. Ralph A. Tymeson, with Neil W. Farrar at the organ.

The Lord's Prayer was led by George C. Johnson, followed by the singing of "America, My Own," by the Chorus.

---

\* This complete service was recorded on seven twelve-inch records which are placed in the charge of the Town Clerk.



Chairman William J. Jamieson then read messages of greeting from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Governor Leverett Saltonstall, U. S. Senators Henry Cabot Lodge and David I. Walsh, Representative Pehr G. Holmes, and Mayor William A. Bennett of Worcester, County Treasurer Alexander G. Lajoie and State Senator Harold R. Lundgren.

Following this, an address was given by Mr. Jamieson, "Review of Town History," in which he noted important events in town since its incorporation, and, in closing said "We very proudly recognize that what the citizens of our town voted for, they were ready to fight for," citing a resolution in 1768 to uphold civil and religious liberty. "For these 200 years, Holden has been blessed with good government. Honest and efficient servants of the people have been elected to office.

"We have a splendid foundation on which to build this town to greater glory, and I am sure we re-dedicate ourselves to that task."

"Onward, Ye Peoples!" sung by the Chorus, preceded the address by Superintendent of Schools, James R. Childs on the "History of the Educational Development of the Town," which showed the progress made through the years, since 1741, when Holden voted fifty pounds for the support of schools and church.

He said "Holden has kept in step with the educational demands of a rapidly changing social order, still holding to the traditional organization of eight elementary and four secondary school years.

"This very brief outline of the history of education in Holden has of necessity omitted much of interest and importance. It is evidence, however, of the faith and pride that the citizens of Holden have in their schools, representing training for citizenship, and working with the church and the New England Town Meeting to build a true democracy in support of our American Way of Life."

The next feature will long be remembered. As the chorus sang "Forward Through the Ages," thirty-two persons, young and old, dressed to represent some period in the history of Holden, marched around the stage.

They were led by Wallace L. Seger, who impersonated Holden's first pastor, Joseph Davis.

Eight-year-old Janet K. Llewelyn, great-great-granddaughter of Thomas Earle Babb, a long-time pastor of the Congregational Church, was dressed in her grandmother's 56-year-old blue silk gown.

The committee arranging this feature of the program were Mrs. Laurence A. Cross, Mrs. Jessie K. Smith, Mrs. M. Addie Holden, Mrs. Donald P. Maynard.

An address, "History of the Medical Profession in the Town," was given by Dr. Frank H. Washburn who said in part:

"The predecessor of the Doctor of Medicine in Worcester and environs was the Nipmuc Medicine Man, who practiced under the diamonistic theory of sickness and death. His treatment included hideous dances, grimaces, beating of tom-toms and exhibition of all sorts of charms, the purpose of which was to drive



out the demons possessing the bodies of his patients. Through faith and suggestion, the shaman undoubtedly brought comfort to many sufferers in the domain now known as Holden, though the death rate, under the system, we are told, was extremely high.

“Damon’s history, published in 1841, informs us that Dr. Isaac Chenery was the first physician, after the town’s incorporation in 1741, to permanently locate here in Holden, which he did in 1768. His medical career ended with his death in 1822, in his eightieth year. The historian states, ‘He commenced the study of physic and surgery, without having previously enjoyed the advantages of a good education. Blessed naturally with a vigorous constitution and a strong mind, after a few months of study, he ventured to offer himself as a practitioner.’

“At the end of the first decade, ‘there was a remarkable sickness causing the death of twenty-two persons.’ In 1755, following the earthquake, a raging distemper carried off forty-five persons, mostly young people. This was evidently dysentery. In 1773, two hundred fourteen persons, more than half under five years of age had died. The losses in the large families, of which there were one hundred six at that time, were more than replenished, for there had been six hundred forty-two births.

“The fees for medical service about this time depended upon distance traveled and was ‘six pence per mile, out.’ This fee was not small by comparison to other costs for the historian tells us that a glass of New England rum could be bought for two coppers.

“Of the twelve men named in Damon’s History of Holden as having practiced medicine during the first century of the town’s incorporate existence, but two were graduate M.D.’s, David Davis and Augustus Robbins. The practice of two or three of them lapped over into the second century, then we find recorded the following: ‘Drs. Joseph T. O. West practiced here for some years prior to 1853, later moved to Princeton, his widow still lives in that town; Albert D. Smith, 1853 to 1858; James T. Rood, 1858 to 1860, became Assistant Surgeon in the Civil War and Albert B. Robinson, 1857 to 1862, became Surgeon in the Civil War, later Professor of Surgery, New England Female Medical College, (discontinued.)’

“Dr. Joseph Stamford Ames, graduate of Berkshire Medical College (now discontinued), an ardent student of varied scientific subjects practiced here continuously for forty-four years from 1858 to the beginning of his fatal illness, dying in 1902. The essayist recalls a personal statement of Dr. Ames that he had visited professionally in every house in Holden with one exception.

“Dr. Clifford W. Stickney, graduate of the Medical Department University of the city of New York, located for practice in 1881, and was active to 1923, in which year he died. He served the town in various capacities among which were Superintendent of Schools, and Town Clerk.

“Dr. Frank H. Washburn, Tufts, 1899, located in 1902, still in practice. Dr. Frank F. Carr, Harvard, 1893, active to near the time of his death in 1920. He was father of Dr. F. Benjamin Carr, heart specialist



of Worcester; Dr. Henry A. Hoit, Harvard, 1905, located here in 1908 and was active until 1913, when he moved to Pasadena, California. Dr. William F. Farmer located here in 1906 and practiced for a few months; Dr. John P. Rand, New York Homeopathic Medical School, 1883, while in practice in Worcester moved to Holden in 1919. He was in active practice here, also maintained his city office until death in 1923.

"In 1918, Dr. G. Arnold Rice, Tufts, 1916, Captain in the Air Service with the American Expeditionary Forces in France during the First World War, located in Holden in 1919 and became associated with Dr. Washburn. Later, other physicians became associated with them and group practice has been continued to the present under the name of the Holden Clinic. The following have at some time been or are now associates of the group: Drs. Seth F. H. Howes, Harvard, 1918; Theodore L. Story, Tufts, 1907; Rockwood H. Thayer, Tufts, 1926; Henry W. Elliott, University of Vermont, 1893; Joseph P. Muller, University of Budapest, Hungary, 1919; William F. Knowlton, Albany Medical College, 1899; Edward J. Crane, Tufts, 1930; Paul T. Hayes, Tufts, 1935; and Leroy E. Mayo, Tufts, 1935. Drs. William B. Davidson, Baltimore Medical School, and Harry W. Trask, University of Vermont, have been part time associates.

"Josiah Warren Ball, D.D.S., Boston Dental College, 1870, became a lieutenant in the Civil War, was later Instructor in Dentistry in the College from which he graduated and became President of the Massachusetts Dental Association. Dr. Ball practiced in his native town of Holden. We find no record of other

dentists whose exclusive practice was in Holden until Dr. Daniel A. Nason located here in 1933. He died in 1940. Dr. Samuel A. Zaritt, University of Pittsburgh Dental School, 1939, located here is now in practice.

“Several physicians and dentists have chosen Holden for residences but have not had offices here. If time allotted permitted we should like to mention their names as well as those of the several Holden boys who have gone into the profession of medicine and dentistry, and those of the many Holden girls who have entered the nursing profession.

“In 1913, the Holden Visiting Nurse Association was formed and incorporated in 1915. Margaret E. Doyle was the first visiting nurse and was succeeded by Florence E. Howe, and Ruth Hazelton (Mrs. Harry Bartlett). This society was discontinued after five years and visiting nursing was carried on by the Holden Hospital. As time went on, school nursing supplemented school medical inspection in a group of towns of which Holden was a component, and a public health nurse was employed by the town, she also taking over the visiting nursing. . . .

“The Wachusett Medical Improvement Society was given birth in Holden. Although its membership has increased ten fold and includes doctors from a wide area, the majority of its meetings continue to be held here. . . .

“With the obvious medical and sanitary progress since the days of the pioneer physician who ‘after a few months of study’ afforded himself as a practitioner of medicine, we should keep before us the knowledge



that in this ever changing world, in this mechanical era, new problems are constantly arising and new diseases appearing. To insure a continuance of our *good reputation in the field of health preservation*, there must be a determination to keep our weapons of defence up to date, and in the hands of able workers—our watch word may well be *health preparedness*.”

This address was followed by the singing of “America.”

The Re-dedication program, which was broadcast by Radio Station WTAG, was arranged by the following committee: William J. Jamieson, chairman, George C. Johnson, secretary, Mrs. David Cook, Miss Ella M. Harrington, Mrs. Elmer J. Johnson.

About June 16 the Committee on Invitations, of which Mrs. Frank J. Knowlton was chairman, issued about 400 invitations to former residents and interested friends of the town, to return for the series of special events which were being arranged for the week of June 30 to July 4.

Guests arriving in Holden to participate in the festivities could not but note the attractiveness of its appearance.

A good number of the buildings on the main street were decorated with bunting in the national colors; this work being done by the McLaughlin Awning Company of Worcester.

Antonio Zottoli was chairman of the local Decorations Committee.

Freshly painted, the century-old Town Hall gleamed snowy white against a background of tall

green trees, and everywhere smooth lawns and lovely flowers gave evidence of the pride taken by Holden citizens in maintaining the home-like atmosphere of the town.

The Landmarks Committee, with Mrs. Gertrude K. Holden, chairman, had placards placed on the public buildings, and on many old houses, throughout the town, bearing the date of their erection, as nearly as could be learned.

Opposite the common a large sign across the street informed passersby that celebration of the town's bi-centennial was in progress.

The first event of the week occurred on Monday evening, June 30, when two hundred members of the High School Alumni Association gathered at 6:45 for a banquet in the Congregational Church.

This was served by a local committee, with Mrs. John S. Rose as chairman.

The "fifty year" class of 1891 were especially invited guests, and the following members were present: Miss Lois M. Hubbard, Mr. E. Frank Kelton, Mrs. Lucy Boyden Kelton, Mr. Harris W. Moore, and Mrs. Lucy Putnam Dodge.

Mr. Charlie B. Jordan, Alumni President, opened the meeting and after a brief business session invited those present to join in singing "God Bless America."

He then presented in turn, the following, who related interesting facts and reminiscences of former days in Holden. Miss Lizbeth Larned, a former teacher in Holden, Mrs. Rena Putnam, class of 1884, Mr. C. Clifden Agar, Mrs. M. Addie Holden, a former teacher in town, Mr. Harris W. Moore, class



of 1891, and Mr. Robert I. Bramhall, Superintendent of Schools from 1913-1917. Mr. Bramhall responded as follows:

“Mr. President, Members of the Holden High School Alumni Association and Invited Guests:

“It is indeed a great privilege to gather here with so many old friends and to participate in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of this good old town. May I take the few moments that have been allotted to me to address my remarks to the youth who have recently been graduated from this high school. May I urge them to affiliate themselves closely with this Association in order that those ties of friendship which they have formed during their school years may not be severed but made stronger and more helpful.

“As we face the future so full of uncertainty may I urge upon all of us that we aim to remain true to that great Democracy under which we have enjoyed the liberties that have been ours. May we cheerfully and loyally assume the duties that accompany those liberties. May we all be true to the American way of life, to the ideals of democracy. May our youth of today learn to respond to the call to duty, whether it be in civil life or in the armed forces of our country, and labor loyally and faithfully for our country. May we all, both old and young, do all in our power to help our country meet successfully this emergency in order that the democratic way of life may be saved for the generations which are to follow. May we hope that the American school has produced an American citizen, who will be loyal to both obligations and opportunities in America.”

The message of the last speaker, William H. Warren, Jr., was as follows:

“The class of 1941 is the fifty-eighth graduating class to join the Holden High School Alumni Association and may I take this occasion to express the appreciation of our class for the opportunity which we have to join such an organization and for the warm welcome which we are receiving. As time goes on, each year we may look forward to the Alumni Banquet as a special date on the calendar—an occasion when we may meet old friends, renew old acquaintanceships, and recall to mind the outstanding events of our high school years. May I also bring from the members of the class of 1941 their hearty congratulations to the class of 1891, which held its graduation fifty years ago this month.

“From the date of its incorporation the Town of Holden has provided schooling for its young people and during these two centuries the subjects taught have advanced from the three *r*'s—reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic—until at the present time the high school curriculum contains all the college requirements. This is a record of which all those connected with the Holden schools may well be proud, but the world today needs more than people with a working knowledge of mathematics, science, and the languages; it needs more than people with an appreciation of great music, art, and the classics. If democracy is to survive we need men and women of character who will not sacrifice their ideals for wealth; broadminded men and women of wisdom and discretion who will take upon themselves the responsibilities of self-government, unselfish



men and women who will sacrifice their own whims and desires for the good of others. If that form of government which we cherish is to endure it is our task to *be* these men and women."

After the singing of Alma Mater the company adjourned to the Town Hall where about 300 persons assembled to witness an exhibition of dancing by the pupils of Miss Delores Magwood, and to enjoy music by the Genovesi Brothers.

The remainder of the evening was passed in dancing, with music by Len Mort's Orchestra.

Tuesday evening, July 1, at 8:00 P.M., in the Town Hall, an Old Folks' Concert, sponsored by the Holden Woman's Club, Mrs. Harold B. Hunt, chairman, was presented.

Under the direction of William S. Sargent, as Singing Master, with Mrs. W. Goulding Warren, accompanist, a mixed chorus of twenty-five voices rendered a program of the much loved old-time favorites.

All were dressed in fashions remote from those of the present day, but in accord with the period represented by their songs.

Following the concert, "Old Holden in Words and Pictures," sponsored by Captain George Webb Chapter, D. A. R., was given by Mrs. William H. Warren.

As she read facts of interest relating to town history, pictures were shown of the town and its buildings in the earlier days.

Wednesday evening, July 2, in the High School Auditorium, a "Town Meeting" of olden days was presented under the direction of Mrs. Lois P. Drawbridge.

Of great interest was the fact that Mrs. Drawbridge, assisted by Town Clerk Walter W. Gleason, made a careful study of the earliest town records, and all articles and votes used in the meeting were taken from the original documents.

Scarcely would their nearest relatives have recognized the group of fifteen bewhiskered, quaintly garbed men who eloquently discussed the pros and cons of the articles presented for their consideration by Charles T. Hawley, moderator of the meeting.

At its close, hearty applause ended this part of the program, and, following an intermission, a "Garden of Memories," also in charge of Mrs. Drawbridge, was given.

The stage was decorated to represent a beautiful garden. Fresh crimson rambler roses entwined the arbor in the center, while masses of vari-colored hollyhocks formed the background.

At one side of the stage a chorus of eight girls, dressed to represent various flowers, sang during the performance. Mrs. Evangeline Olson assisted, and also sang solos.

Mrs. Gladys M. Gleason served as pianist, and director.

Twenty-five old-time costumes with attractive accessories were shown, many of these having been made more than 100 years ago.

One at a time the "models" passed down the rose arbor, and paused before the footlights, for a moment's survey, while the chorus sang for each one a stanza from some old song, then each moved back to make room for the next comer.



The patience and sweetness of the small children who modeled some of the quaintest costumes is worthy of note.

The little boy's suit worn by Geoffrey Drawbridge, three and one-half, was worn by Jonathan Moore about 1808. His sister Penelope, one and one-half, wore a dress which was in the Bartlett family eighty years ago. Betty and Billy Hale, two and one-half and three, and Janelle McKay, seven, wore costumes ranging from sixty to eighty years old.

Jane Bartlett's gown was one worn by her great-great-grandmother, Louisa Monroe, in 1817.

In the older group, Shirley Hubbard wore the "going away" dress of her great-grandmother, Elizabeth Cheney, who married Charles Flagg in 1830. She wore a paisley shawl, one of three in Elizabeth Cheney's trousseau, each one costing from one hundred to one hundred fifty dollars.

She carried a hundred-year-old brown parasol which once belonged to Vashti Flagg, wife of Silas Flagg, Jr.

Despite the fact that the mercury registered 94 degrees, every available seat in the auditorium was taken, and an overflow audience stood in the vestibule during the entertainment.

Thursday evening, July 3, about fifty couples enjoyed dancing in the Town Hall from 9:00 to 1:00 A.M. Music was furnished by Pruneau's Orchestra of Worcester.

The Hall was attractively decorated with bunting in the national colors, and bright colored balloons.

At 11:00 o'clock a huge bonfire was lighted in the Athletic Field, under the supervision of the Fire Department.

This illuminated the sky and surrounding streets for some time, and was visible for many miles.

The climax of the week's activities came on Friday, July 4, when, from 10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. entertainment for all ages was in progress.

Approximately 5,000 persons were about town on that day, lining the sides of the main streets, their interest unabated by a light sprinkling of rain, the first to fall during the week, as they watched the Bicentennial Parade pass.

Under the direction of William H. George and his committee, the line of march, forming on Sunnyside Avenue, moved up Main Street to Hicks', over Boyden, Phillips and Woodland Roads to Highland Street, and down Highland Street to Holden Common.

At the head of the procession, as marshal, rode Frank K. Packard, Chief of Police, and following him came more than sixty floats and features displaying the widest variety of interests.

In eight of the different divisions there was music by an out-of-town band or drum corps, while the ninth division was led by the Holden Legion Junior Drum Corps.

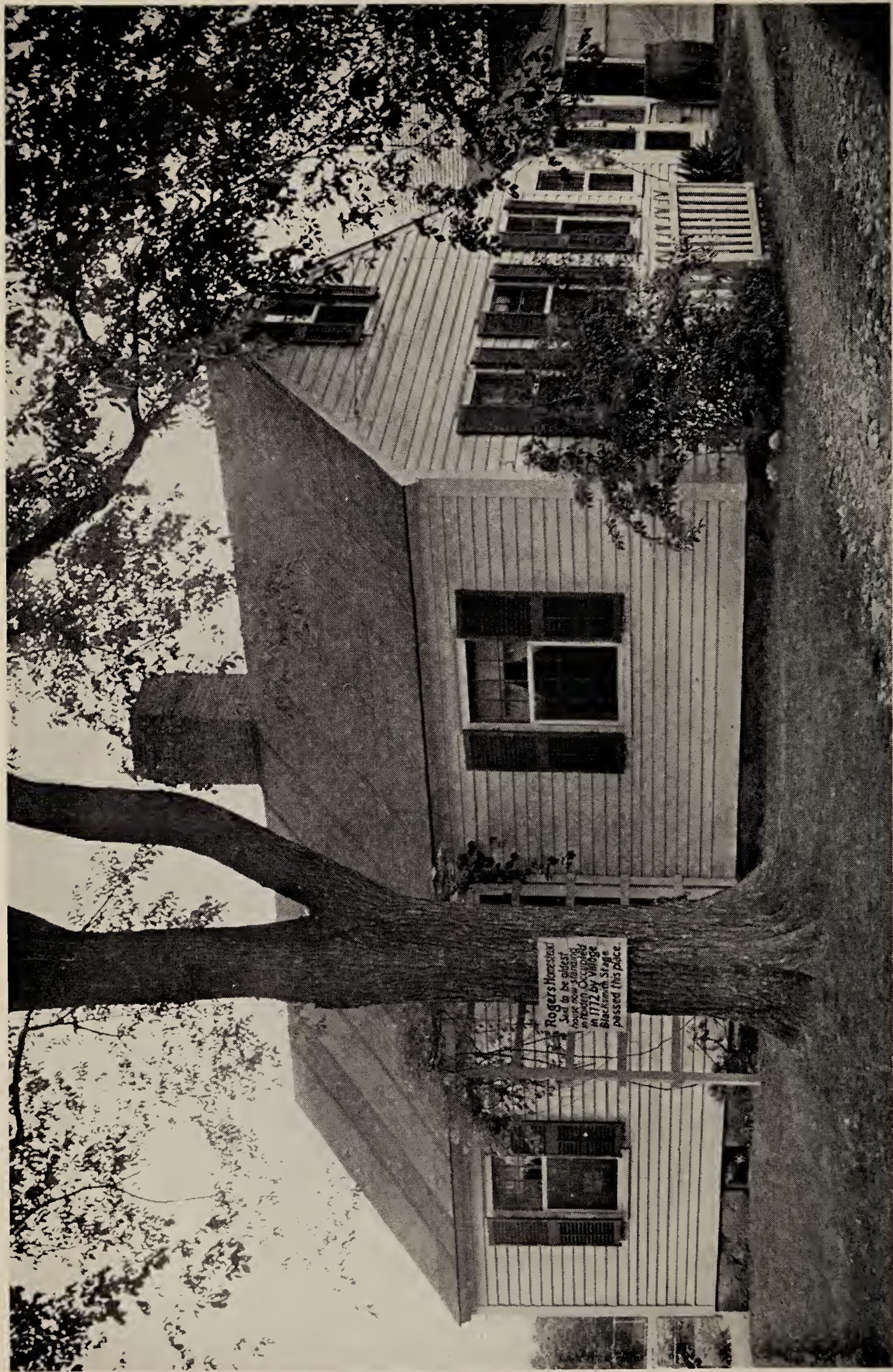
Enthusiastic applause was heard as the long line passed slowly through the streets.

Churches, fraternal organizations, clubs, schools, stores, business groups, and individuals were all represented, many by beautifully decorated floats in bright colors. In contrast was an ox-cart drawn by two beau-









ROGERS HOUSE



## NONDESCRIPT CLUB

This was organized as a social club, in 1881, but after a few meetings it was decided to work for the public good and its "object" as stated in its constitution should be "to promote social feeling, and establish a fund for the public benefit."

To obtain funds they held picnics, lawn parties, suppers and in 1882, a fair was held.

The club secured the digging of the well on the common, and introduced water into the Town Hall. They bought dishes for use at the Hall, and a desk for Memorial Hall, and also provided many of the street lamps in town.

## WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

This society, organized October 12, 1885 was active in town for some years.

The departments of work taken up were: juvenile, Sunday-school, legislative, and scientific temperance instruction.

Among its leading members were, Mrs. Israel Manning Ball, president of the society for more than ten years, Mrs. Samuel Warren, secretary, Mrs. Joseph H. Ames.

## CHATAUQUA CLUB

During the period between 1880 and 1890 this society, which was associated with the National Association, was active in this vicinity.

Mr. Henry H. Holden, Mr. Gustavus S. Holden and Rev. Thomas E. Babb were instrumental in organizing the club which offered a four year course of reading and serious study to persons desiring the advantages of a higher education.

### HOLDEN CLUB

Organized July, 1889.

### VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

This society was organized in November, 1889, by a number of public spirited citizens in Holden center. Soon similar societies were organized in Jefferson and Quinapoxet.

Fairs were held in each village, and the money raised was expended at the Center and Jefferson for sidewalks, and at Quinapoxet for street lights.

Besides the building of sidewalks, the societies caused the planting of many shade trees, and planned other ways of adding to the beauty of the town.

### WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS

The Theron E. Hall Woman's Relief Corps No. 140, Auxiliary to the G. A. R., was organized April 13, 1891, with the following charter members. Martha E. Graham, Mattie L. Holden, Sophronia R. Hubbard, Mary P. Newell, Mary N. Rogers, Mary E. Matthews, E. Maria Hubbard, Hattie A. Farrar, Elizabeth A. Whitney, Emma S. Mulit, Lucy A. Stearns, Addie R. Brown, Lucy S. Allen, Margaret B. Whittemore, Jessie Seaver, Mary J. Holden, Alida A. Chen-



ery, Sarah A. Allen, Theresa McGrath, Martha G. Hubbard, Mary C. Hill, Jane Hubbard. Mrs. Martha Graham was chosen the first president.

During the years since that day, the Corps has rendered much service along patriotic lines. For many years its members made all the wreaths used for decorating the graves at Memorial time, served dinners, and joined in the Memorial Day Parade.

They have presented many schools with flags, and given freely of their funds for the relief of the needy.

This year they celebrated their 50th anniversary.

### ALPHA SOCIAL CLUB

The Alpha Club was organized May 30, 1896. At that time, many out of town people came to Holden to pass the summer months, and for years these visitors, and the townspeople, enjoyed the weekly evening programs of this club, which were varied with the best local talent and that from other sources. The meetings were held in the lower town hall. In August 1924 the club by-laws were changed to include residents of Paxton, Rutland and Princeton. The membership was then more than 130.

### A. O. U. W. HOLDEN LODGE, NO. 201

Organized January, 1897.

### ECONOMIC CLUB

This club was formed in November, 1899, by a group of leading citizens who met regularly for the

study and discussion of current events and world affairs.

Rev. Thomas E. Babb, active in the formation of the club, was its first president, and continued to serve for some years.

Many of the meetings were held in the home of William D. Chenery on Main Street.

### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS, HOLDEN LODGE, NO. 148

Organized January 27, 1902. Meetings held at Town building first and third Tuesdays of each month. Officers elected quarterly.

### HOLDEN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

This was organized in 1902 and once each year a reunion of past and present members of the school was held.

In 1917 it was voted that only graduates of the school should be entitled to membership in the association.

Meetings were held in the town hall where an entertainment was provided, followed by refreshments and dancing.

Miss Clara K. Bascom was an early secretary of this organization.

After a time meetings were discontinued but in 1926 there was a renewal of interest. Newly elected officers were: Dr. Walter H. Richardson, President; Mrs. Sarah Muzzy, Secretary. Upon the completion of the



new High School Building in 1926, a banquet was held there which was largely attended.

Speakers were chosen who had been attendants at the school. Since then yearly meetings have been held, and on alumni evening, June 30, 1941, two hundred members were present at the banquet which was followed by interesting reminiscences given by former instructors and alumni members.

### DAMON CAMP, NO. 122, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Damon Camp, No. 122, was organized August 10, 1906, with the following charter members: Frank H. Stevens, Harry L. Green, Albert A. Graham, Lewis S. Toombs, John W. David, Winslow H. Rogers, Frank C. Hubbard, Arthur L. Kirby, Walter A. Stevens, Herman E. Jefts, Merle E. Stevens, Charles S. Graham, Charlie B. Jordan, Benjamin W. Toombs, Fred J. Toombs, Winfred H. Stearns, Leslie A. Cole, George W. Pierce, Louis Bepro, Eugene W. Cole, Harry C. Damon, Louis A. LeBlanc, Dennis H. Nawn, H. Everett Green, Henry A. Holt. Frank H. Stevens was active in the organization of the Camp, and was its first commander.

Their work was to assist the Grand Army in their Patriotic activities in every way possible, and this they did from year to year until the thinning ranks and failing health of the G. A. R. members left to the co-operation of the Sons of Veterans and the American Legion and their Auxiliaries, the patriotic work and

yearly decoration of the graves of comrades who now "lie asleep."

### WACHUSETT CHAPTER, NO. 131, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Wachusett Chapter, No. 131, was instituted March 23rd, 1911, and was constituted October 30, 1911.

Among the first officers chosen were: Worthy Matron, Bessie M. Washburn; Worthy Patron, Edward E. Howe; Associate Matron, Susie L. Austin; Associate Patron, Arthur E. Haley; Secretary, Mary C. Bascom; Treasurer, Ella A. Hayden.

There were thirty-eight charter members, seven of whom are still active in the work of the chapter. They are Mrs. Charles E. Adams, Miss Mary C. Bascom, Mrs. Henry E. Bemis, Mrs. E. Frank Kelton, Mrs. Charles C. Paine, Dr. Frank H. Washburn, Mrs. Frank H. Washburn.

Social gatherings are held, and the chapter renders helpful service to its members whenever such is needed.

It celebrated its thirtieth anniversary in October, 1941.

### BOY SCOUTS

In 1912 or 1913 Rev. George E. Cary was instrumental in organizing Boy Scout Troop Number 1, in Holden, and for some years he continued as their leader.

He was followed by Henry S. Muzzy. From 1923-1926 Freeman Hawley and Nathan Matthews were in charge, and then Benjamin Johnson became leader. During this period the troop had no connection with the Worcester Council Organization, and its activities



were entirely under the direction of the scoutmaster and his helpers.

For a few years the troop was abandoned, but in 1930 the Congregational Church became its sponsor with Randall Piper as scoutmaster. This was known as Troop Number 140. Windsor W. Peterson was the next leader, and then for about four years Lawrence C. Gaunt was in charge. During this time the increase in membership warranted the formation of a second troop, 140B, with Thomas Smith as its leader. A little later this was merged with Troop 140.

The boys have enjoyed camping and hiking and have provided Parent's Night entertainments. A Minstrel Show was given in 1940.

In 1941 Troop 140, with 38 members, is being sponsored by the American Legion, and a newly formed troop, Number 180, with 22 members, has the Congregational and Baptist Churches for its sponsors.

The latter Troop is under the leadership of Benjamin Holden and Warren White.

## CAPTAIN GEORGE WEBB CHAPTER

### *Daughters of the American Revolution*

The Captain George Webb Chapter was organized March 27, 1913, in the Congregational Church. The chapter was organized and the officers installed by Mrs. Sarah E. Brown of Auburn. Mrs. Anna P. Fay was the first regent.

Captain George Webb, for whom the chapter was named, was born in Barnstable. At eighteen he served as a soldier in the French War, and was one of the first to enlist in the struggle for independence. He

came to Holden during that time and was the only one of the thirty-five who served in the Continental Army to become a commissioned officer. He was a fearless soldier and a high spirited officer.

His first home in Holden was a house opposite Bulard Street, in Chaffins. Later, he made his home on Boyden Road. He served the town as assessor in 1783, and as town clerk and selectman in 1792-93.

He is buried in the grave yard opposite the common.

Each year the Chapter holds a series of meetings with topics of educational, patriotic, and historic interest, and some of the projects sponsored by them have been, the support of a French war orphan, regular work for the Red Cross and for the Holden District Hospital. After the death of Miss Marion Bascom a room at Holden District Hospital was furnished by them in her memory.

Scholarships in Maryville College, Tennessee, have been given, and medals to pupils in Holden schools for excellence in U. S. History.

July 4, 1916, the chapter presented the town a granite boulder marking the acre of land given to the town in 1789 by Gov. Hancock, "to be forever used as a common."

Hon. Henry W. Warren was historian of the day. Miss Marion A. Bascom, regent of the Chapter, at that time, presented the boulder to the town, and Mrs. Anna Fay, their first regent, unveiled the marker. The gift was accepted for the town by Rev. Thomas E. Babb.

March 9, 1938, the chapter celebrated its 25th anniversary.



## CAMPFIRE GIRLS

A group of Campfire Girls was organized about 1913 by Mrs. George E. Cary and Mrs. Howard A. Newton. A little later Mrs. Charles T. Hawley became their leader.

Their activities were continued for about ten years, when the organization was disbanded.

## ASNEBUMSKIT TRIBE, RED MEN

The Holden Tribe of Red Men was organized December 7, 1913, with Charles G. Carlson as Sachem, and William B. Gain, Keeper of Records.

## ONOWA COUNCIL, NO. 101, DAUGHTERS OF POCOHONTAS

This order was organized April 1, 1924, with 70 charter members. Mrs. William Lindstrom was their first Pocahontas.

These organizations provide programs of social interest for their members during the year, holding their meetings in Red Men's Hall which is located on Hill Top Avenue, Jefferson.

## HOLDEN WOMAN'S CLUB

In 1915 two social groups in town, the Tuesday Club and the Fifteen Club, feeling that "in union is strength," decided to merge their memberships, in order to enlarge the scope of their work, enabling them to carry out a broader program of social and educational interest.

Accordingly, on the afternoon of April 22nd, members of the two clubs met in the Community House to discuss the advisability of forming a Woman's Club in Holden. After all had expressed their views a temporary organization was formed, with Mrs. George E. Cary, president, and Mrs. Henry H. Holden, secretary.

On May 3rd, a committee met at the home of Mrs. William S. Piper to draw up the by-laws for the new club, and Article 2 states that, "The object of this Association shall be the improvement of its members and the practical consideration of the important questions that grow out of the relations of the individual to society, the basis of membership being earnestness of purpose, love of truth, and a desire to promote the best interests of humanity."

These by-laws were accepted and adopted at a meeting on May 13th, and signed by the members at a meeting at Mrs. Cary's on May 23rd. On June 28, 1915, the club met in the Community House and the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Mary E. Piper; First Vice-President, Mrs. Ethel G. Cary; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Annie M. Sanborn; Clerk, Mrs. Grace A. Stickney; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. M. Addie Holden; Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret E. Muir; Auditor, Mrs. Agnes Powers. That year the club joined the State Federation, and their 1915-1916 program lists seventy-six active and eight associate members.

Since that day their programs have covered a wide range of subjects and each year the various depart-



ments have brought many outstanding speakers to the meetings.

Some of the club's activities have been—organization of Red Cross work, supporting of three French orphans, as long as it was needed, sponsoring of the Parent-Teachers' Association, a generous donation of money toward the dental clinic, the gift of a library to the Holden District Hospital, a motion picture machine to the High School, and sponsoring the planting of the first living Christmas tree in Holden on September 12, 1931.

Sixteen clubs and organizations shared in the expense of this, and on February 18, 1932, the tree was dedicated in connection with the observance of the Bicentennial of the birthday of George Washington.

In 1934 a Junior Woman's Club was formed with Miss Cynthia Harrington as president.

In 1941 the Holden Woman's Club has one hundred seventy-five active members and thirteen associate members and there is a waiting list.

A number of members from the adjoining towns of Princeton and Rutland are active in the work of the club.

February 15, 1941, marked the celebration of its 25th anniversary. There were morning and afternoon speakers, and a luncheon at noon, at which ten past presidents responded at the call of the president. This meeting was largely attended, and was typical of the loyalty and enthusiasm which has marked the progress of the club from year to year, in its endeavor "to promote the best interests of humanity."

## JOHN E. HARKINS POST, NO. 42, AMERICAN LEGION

The John E. Harkins Post was organized in 1919, and the earliest records show that a meeting was held in November of that year when William Marlowe was commander and George Battye, adjutant.

A military ball and other functions were held that first year. In 1922 a set of by-laws and a constitution were adopted.

November 1, 1923, bronze tablets were erected at Quinapoxet and Unionville schools, in memory of four Holden boys who lost their lives in the World War.

Judge John J. O'Brien was the speaker and there were exercises by the school children.

In 1934 the post was incorporated, and in September that year, they met in the new quarters acquired by them for a permanent post home, a short distance from the Grove Cemetery entrance.

This was formally dedicated on September 29th and 30th with appropriate exercises.

On Hancock Common, opposite the Congregational Church, on Memorial Day, 1935, a tree was planted in memory of the five Holden boys who died during the World War. In front of it is a tablet bearing their names and the dates of their deaths. See Roll of Honor.

The Harkins plot in Saint Mary's Cemetery is so-called in memory of John E. Harkins.

Among the many activities of the Post are their sponsorship of the Holden Boy Scout Troop, relief work, an annual clambake, Christmas party, play, and a two-day carnival which is well patronized by Holden people and those from surrounding towns.



Following the decoration of graves, each Memorial Day, the townspeople gather at the World War memorial where exercises are conducted by members of the Legion, and at twelve o'clock a salute of twenty-one guns is fired.

### JOHN E. HARKINS

John E. Harkins was born in Worcester, October 10, 1900.

When he was six years of age his family removed to Unionville where he attended the school in that district.

He enlisted in the World War January 17, 1917, and was killed by a train on March 8, 1918, while on the march to the front.

He is buried in France.

### HOLDEN WORLD WAR MEMORIAL

February 2, 1920, the following committee was appointed to consider the matter of a permanent Memorial for the citizens who served in the World War: Bertram S. Newell, C. Arthur Marsh, James M. Prendergast, George C. Johnson, Frank L. Niles.

In 1925 the town appropriated the sum of \$2,500 for the erection of a memorial, and this was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1925.

Located on the smooth lawn south of the Damon Memorial building, the granite base which surrounds a forty foot steel flag staff contains tablets on its four sides upon which are inscribed the names of the Holden men who served in the World War and those who lost their lives therein.

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 42

The Woman's Auxiliary to the American Legion in Holden was organized June 10, 1920.

First officers were: Mrs. Lottie J. Kohlstrom, President; Miss Edith David, Vice-President. In March, 1921, Miss Edith M. Howe was chosen Historian.

That year, in November, the auxiliary had the honor of sending its president, Mrs. Kohlstrom, as the first delegate from Worcester county to the first national convention, which was held in Kansas City.

Each year since its organization members of the auxiliary have worked energetically raising funds to carry on their broad program of service for World War veterans and their families.

There have been entertainments, dances, whist parties, lawn parties, an annual play, and in the spring a "poppy" sale is held.

Auxiliary members assist in the Memorial Day activities, and bring cheer to the disabled veterans in Rutland at Christmas time by providing trees and gifts for them. The patients are also remembered on Easter and on Mother's Day.

Gold Star Mothers are also remembered on special days.

The auxiliary contributed largely toward the tablets erected on the Quinapoxit and Unionville schools in honor of Holden boys who died in the World War.

In 1927 Mrs. Lottie J. Kohlstrom was the Massachusetts delegate to the national convention in France.

She took with her a box of soil to be scattered on a battlefield in France.



July 20 and 21, 1928, the first Legion Carnival was held.

Since then the Legion and Auxiliary have co-operated in making this one of the outstanding events of the year.

The auxiliary presented a flag to the Chaffins School in 1929, and one to the Post on February 28, 1933.

October 1, 1935, they held a joint installation with the Post in the new Legion home on Main Street.

That year the Sons of Legionnaires marched for the first time in the Memorial Day parade.

May 25, 1939, a flag and staff were presented to the Senior Girl Scouts.

May 30, 1939, the Junior Drum Corps made its initial appearance.

## SONS OF THE LEGION

These were organized in 1935.

Members joined in the line of march with other patriotic organizations on Memorial Day and assisted in other activities of the day.

As their work paralleled that of an older organization, the Boy Scouts, they were disbanded in 1941, but about thirty of the former members are now functioning as a very promising Junior Drum Corps, whose local and out-of-town engagements have won very favorable recognition.

## THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY

This was organized in 1939 with a membership of thirty. Its first chairman was Mary Ann Moroski.

## HOLDEN TROWEL CLUB

On June 1, 1920, all members of the Masonic Fraternity, living in Holden and vicinity, were invited to gather at the Community House to discuss the advisability of forming a Masonic Club in Holden.

A delegation of Grotto Club members from Worcester, including H. E. Davis, H. A. Inett, W. Vernon Inett and W. R. Livingston were present to aid in the forming of the new organization.

Benjamin H. Robbins, for the committee, gave an outline of suggested plans. After these were discussed, the nominating committee presented for officers, the following names: President, Dr. Frank H. Washburn; Vice-President, Dr. John P. Rand; Secretary, Frank H. Cate; Treasurer, Henry S. Muzzy. These men were elected.

Forty-four of the number present signified their intention of becoming charter members and the charter being held open until September, the membership then numbered 57 active and 12 honorary members.

By-laws were adopted, and it was voted to call the club "Holden Masonic Club," and to take over the equipment of the "Town Club."

In addition to the regular entertainment furnished its members, the organization has sponsored pool tournaments, pitch parties, an annual ball, clambakes, and Ladies' Nights.

It has contributed to Holden Hospital, Washington Memorial Fund and various other worthy causes.





DAMON MEMORIAL AND WAR MEMORIAL







- Houghton, John R.—Company G, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted July 31st, 1862. Died at Fort Lyon, Va., December 11th, 1862.
- Howe, Amasa A.—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted July 29th, 1862. Died in prison at Florence, S. C., November 25th, 1864.
- Howe, Hiram—Company B, Third Battalion; Company G, Thirty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted December 20th, 1861.
- Hubbard, Calvin—Company G, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 17th, 1862. Died in Libbey Prison, Richmond, Va., February 26th, 1863.
- Hubbard, John F.—Company B, Third Battalion; Sergeant, Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Hubbard, Lyman A.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Hubbard, Martin—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Hubbard, Myron E.—Company E, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted August 15th, 1861.
- Hubbard, Stephen N.—Wagoner, Company G, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 12th, 1862.
- Humphrey, Henry H.—Company C, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 27th, 1862.
- Johnson, George T.—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted January 5th, 1862. Died in hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., January 4th, 1865.
- Kelton, Ira J.—Sergeant, Company B, Third Battalion; Captain, Company C, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted October 3rd, 1861. Fell mortally wounded at Chantilly, Va., September 1st, 1862; died at Georgetown, D. C., September 19th, 1862.
- Kennan, Myron J.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Kennan, Silas F.—Company H, Thirty-first Regiment. Enlisted November 10th, 1861.

- Keyes, Lyman E.—Company C, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 13th, 1861. Killed June 3rd, 1864.
- Knowlton, Charles H.—Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 14th, 1861.
- Knowlton, Franklin A.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Knox, Henry F.—Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 16th, 1861.
- Knox, Walter D.—Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 16th, 1861.
- Ladd, Henry C.—Company B, Third Battalion; Company —, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted ———.
- Levally, Godfrey—Company E, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted October 12th, 1861.
- Lincoln, Albert A.—Corporal, Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Logan, John M.—Company C, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 7th, 1862.
- Lovell, Lewis—Company K, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted August 9th, 1864.
- Lowell, Henry H.—Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted July 15th, 1864. Died at Alexandria, Va., October 5th, 1864.
- Lowell, William J.—Company H, Twenty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted August 15th, 1862.
- Lumazette, Francis—Company B, Third Battalion; Company G, Twenty-first Regiment; Company K, Thirty-sixth Regiment; Company B, Fifty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted August 15th, 1861; re-enlisted January 1st, 1864. Died of wounds August 13th, 1864.
- McDonald, John A.—Captain, Company H, Twenty-eighth Regiment. Enlisted October 8th, 1861; transferred July 26th, 1863, to Veteran Reserve Corps.
- McGrath, James, Jr.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment; Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862; re-enlisted July 15th, 1864.
- Martin, Joseph—Company G, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted October 6th, 1861.



- May, John E.—Company B, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted January 4th, 1864.
- Mayo, John S.—Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 21st, 1861.
- Merrifield, Frank H.—Company D, Fifteenth Regiment; Company G, Twentieth Regiment. Enlisted March 5th, 1862; transferred July 27th, 1864.
- Moore, Charles S.—Company B, Third Battalion; Company H, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted October 18th, 1861.
- Moore, Franklin—Company A, First Provisional Guards. Enlisted July 13th, 1863.
- Moore, Harlan P.—Sergeant, Company K, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted July 28th, 1862. Died at Camp Nelson, Ky., March 1st, 1864.
- Moses, Samuel A.—Company B, Third Battalion. Enlisted April 19th, 1861.
- Murphy, Michael—Nineteenth Regiment. Unassigned. Enlisted July 31st, 1863.
- Newell, George W.—Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 7th, 1862. Died of wounds at Fort Schuyler, New York Harbor, July 24th, 1864.
- Newell, Hiram P.—Sergeant, Company B, Third Battalion. Enlisted April 19th, 1861.
- Newell, Phineas R.—Lieutenant, Company B, Third Battalion; Lieutenant, Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted April 11th, 1861; re-enlisted July 15th, 1864.
- Nichols, William H.—Musician, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted August 23rd, 1861.
- O'Brien, William—Bugler, Company K, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted August 8th, 1864.
- Paddock, Charles F.—Company B, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted January 4th, 1864.
- Paine, Seth H.—Company G, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted August 13th, 1861.
- Panton, Maxie—Company B, Third Battalion; Company F, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted August 15th, 1861.

- Parker, Edward—Company D, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 27th, 1862; re-enlisted February, 1864.
- Parker, Edwin S.—Company A, Ninth Regiment; Company A, Thirty-second Regiment. Enlisted July 13th, 1863; transferred June 9th, 1864.
- Parker, William—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Parmenter, Rodney A.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Paul, Charles—Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted January 4th, 1864; transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps.
- Perry, Cyrus M.—Chaplain, Twenty-fourth New York Cavalry. Enlisted April 3rd, 1865.
- Perry, William C.—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted July 29th, 1862. Died at Fort Lyon, Alexandria, Va., October 21st, 1862.
- Pierce, Oliver—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Piper, Alfred—Company B, Third Battalion; Company E, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 10th, 1861.
- Pratt, Edwin F.—Company B, Third Battalion, Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 17th, 1861.
- Preston, Samuel—Company B, Third Battalion; Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 17th, 1861.
- Putnam, Willard R.—Company A, First Cavalry. Enlisted January 5th, 1864.
- Riley, Michael—Company G, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted March 5th, 1864. Killed at Drury's Bluff, May 16th, 1864.
- Rivers, Edward—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment; Company A, Twenty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted December 15th, 1863; transferred June 14th, 1865.
- Rivers, Peter—Company I, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted August 9th, 1864.



- Robinson, Albert V.—Surgeon, Tenth Regiment; Surgeon, Forty-Second Regiment. Enlisted August 9th, 1862; re-enlisted July 15th, 1864.
- Robinson, Thomas—Company G, Twenty-first Regiment; Company K, Thirty-Sixth Regiment; Company E, Fifty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 23rd, 1861; re-enlisted January 1st, 1864.
- Rogers, Emory—Corporal, Company B, Third Battalion; Lieutenant, Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Rogers, Winslow B.—Musician, Company G, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 12th, 1862. Died at Vicksburg, Miss., July 25th, 1863.
- Santom, Oliver—Company E, Twenty-first Regiment. Enlisted August 15th, 1861.
- Savage, George E.—Musician, Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Savage, John B.—Company B, Third Battalion; Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted September 12th, 1861. Died in Prison at Belle Isle, Va., March 1st, 1864.
- Sargent, Ephraim H.—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment; Company A, Twenty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted December 14th, 1863; transferred June 14th, 1865.
- Sawyer, Alphonso B.—Company B, Third Battalion. Enlisted April 19th, 1861.
- Seaver, George H.—Company C, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted January 11th, 1865.
- Seaver, Roswell R.—Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment; Company C, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted January 4th, 1864; re-enlisted January 11th, 1865.
- Short, John—Company E, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted October 12th, 1861.
- Smith, Artemas C.—Company . . ., First Battalion; Sergeant, Company G, Second Cavalry. Enlisted . . . . .; re-enlisted . . . . .
- Smith, David—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Smith, George A.—Company B, Third Battalion. Enlisted April 19th, 1861.

- Smith, Herbert J.—Company B, Third Battalion. Enlisted April 19th, 1861.
- Smith, Thoret—Company G, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 4th, 1862.
- Stearns, Ezra J.—Company C, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted December 7th, 1863.
- Steele, Charles H.—Company F, Second Regiment. Enlisted May 25th, 1861.
- Steele, George W.—Company K, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted August 8th, 1864.
- Thurston, George T.—Company B, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted January 14th, 1864. Died of wounds at Washington, D. C., June 3rd, 1864.
- Thurston, Lyman F.—Company G, Twenty-first Regiment; Company K, Thirty-sixth Regiment; Company B, Fifty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 23rd, 1861; re-enlisted January 1st, 1864.
- Truesdell, Horace L.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment; Company I, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted September 30th, 1862; re-enlisted August 9th, 1864. Died of wounds, April 15th, 1865.
- Truesdell, Lucius . . . . . New York Cavalry. Enlisted February 12th, 1862.
- Tucker, Alfred S.—Company A, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 6th, 1862. Died at Salisbury, N. C., February 6th, 1865.
- Turner, George H.—Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted July 15th, 1864.
- Williams, Count DeLeon—Company F, Twenty-second Regiment. Enlisted August 10th, 1861.
- Winn, Cyrus D.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Winn, James W.—Company B, Fifty-first Regiment; Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862; re-enlisted July 14th, 1864.
- Wright, Frank—Sergeant, Company A, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted January 19th, 1864.



A list is given in the report of the Selectmen for 1864†, of those who had enlisted between October, 1863, and February, 1864. Most of the names appear in the above list, but of the following it has not been possible, after diligent inquiry, to learn anything beyond the fact stated above:

Charles Badew  
Latham Burt

Robert Clark  
Franklin H. Tolman

John W. Winch

The following is a list of such residents of Holden, before or since the war, as are known to have served in putting down the Rebellion:

Aldrich, Frank A.—Company H, First Rhode Island Light Artillery.

Allen, Dwight D.—Sergeant, Company H, Fifty-seventh Regiment.

Enlisted June 11th, 1864. Killed July 30th, 1864, at Petersburg, Va.

Allen, James H.—Company E, First Vermont. Enlisted May 2nd, 1861.

Armington, Alonzo C.—Company C, Third Vermont. Killed at the battle of Savage Station, June 29th, 1862.

Armington, Henry C.—Company K, Ninth Maine. Killed before Petersburg, July 30th, 1864.

Ball, Oscar C.—Sergeant, Company F, First Missouri Engineers. Enlisted September 23, 1861.

Bates, Ira D.—Principal Musician, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 12th, 1861.

Bennett, Austin C.—Company F, Fourth Regiment Heavy Artillery. Enlisted August 9th, 1864.

---

† To make known to all the patriotism of our citizens in answering the demands of our government, we give the names of those who have volunteered and entered the service of our country since October last. Selectmen, of Holden in their report for the year ending February 22nd, 1864.

- Berry, Joseph—Company B, First Regiment Heavy Artillery. Enlisted December 15th, 1863.
- Betterley, Edward S.—Company A, Fifteenth Regiment; Twentieth Regiment. Enlisted August 2nd, 1861; transferred July 27th, 1864.
- Bixby, Jacob W.—Company C, Twenty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 12th, 1862.
- Bracewell, Joseph—Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted August 28th, 1862.
- Chaffee, G. Edwin—Company I, Fifty-third Regiment; Company E, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted September 6th, 1862; re-enlisted July 22nd, 1864.
- Chaffin, Harry W.—Company K, Ninth Regiment, United States Volunteers.
- Chaffin, Willard—First Battery, Light Artillery; Ninth Battery, Light Artillery. Enlisted August 28th, 1861; re-enlisted December 24th, 1865; transferred March 12th, 1865.
- Clark, Simeon C.—Acting Third Assistant Engineer, United States Navy, on S. S. Vixen. Enlisted November 20th, 1862.
- Clark, Thaddeus S.—Tenth unattached Company, Heavy Artillery; transferred to United States Navy, serving on S. S. Princeton and Monitor Tunxis. Enlisted August 5th, 1863.
- Cole, Stephan T.—Company B, Twelfth Regiment; Company E, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted May 15th, 1861; re-enlisted January 4th, 1864.
- Comstock, Albert M.—Musician, Company B, Seventy-second New York. Enlisted May 28th, 1861.
- Cooley, Marius S.—Company G, Second Regiment. Enlisted August 14th, 1862; transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps.
- Creed, Isaac—Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted April 7th, 1862.
- Davis, Alden G.—Company B, Twenty-third New York. Enlisted June 1st, 1863.
- Dean, Paul I.—Company D, Fourth Regiment, Heavy Artillery. Enlisted August 17th, 1864.
- Dockham, Daniel—Company G, Twelfth New Hampshire. Enlisted May 28th, 1864.
- Dunker, George.



- Durdeen, Smith—Company F, Fifth Regiment. Enlisted May 28th, 1864.
- Gardner, Andrew J.—Company C, Fourth Rhode Island. Enlisted September 9th, 1861.
- Geer, Roman J.—Corporal, Company K, Seventh Connecticut. Enlisted September 9th, 1861.
- Graham, George S.—Company D, Fifty-third Regiment. Enlisted September 2nd, 1862.
- Harrington, Dennis—Company E, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted June 3rd, 1862.
- Hill, William—Corporal, Company A, Second Vermont. Enlisted July, 1863.
- Howe, Church,—Sergeant, Company G, Sixth Regiment; Captain, Company K, Fifteenth Regiment; brevetted Major; Senior Aide-de-Camp to Major-General Sedgwick. Enlisted April 16th, 1861.
- Jordan, William A.—Company C, Eighty-eighth, Illinois. Enlisted August 10th, 1862.
- Kendall, Herbert I.
- Kilburn, William W.—Lieutenant. Killed at the battle of Williamsburg.
- Ladd, George H.—Corporal, Company F, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted July 11th, 1864.
- Lamb, Edward P.—Company B, Third Battalion; Corporal, Company F, Eighteenth, Wisconsin. Enlisted April 19th, 1861; re-enlisted February 5th, 1862.
- Lane, Benjamin H.—Company H, One Hundred and Forty-ninth Pennsylvania. Enlisted August 26th, 1862.
- Leslie, Charles H.—Company C, Thirty-fifth Regiment; Corporal, Company C, Twenty-ninth Regiment. Enlisted August 11th, 1864; transferred June 9th, 1865.
- Loring, Silas H.—Company A, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 3rd, 1862.
- McCabe, John M.—Company B, Second Regiment. Enlisted May 11th, 1861.
- McCarty, Edward.
- Mellsop, James—Company D, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.

- Merriam, Horace—Company C, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted October 10th, 1861.
- Moore, Marcus—Company F, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted October 14th, 1862.
- Moore, Thomas—Company I, Tenth Rhode Island Regiment. Enlisted May 26th, 1862.
- Moran, Thomas—Company D, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted 1865.
- Morse, Horace B.—Corporal, Company I, Thirty-ninth Regiment. Enlisted August 4th, 1862.
- Murphy, James—Company K, Third United States Infantry. Enlisted July 2nd, 1861.
- Nado, Michael—..... New York Cavalry. Enlisted February 12th, 1862.
- Newton, Nahum.
- Paddock, James D.†
- Padelford, John W.—Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 16th, 1861.
- Parker, Warren C.—Company D, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted January 4th, 1864.
- Parmenter, Cyrus T.—Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 16th, 1861.
- Parmenter, Henry H.—Company G, Eighteenth Regiment. Enlisted October 3rd, 1861. Died in hospital at Sharpsburg, Va., November 4th, 1862, from wounds received at the battle of Antietam.
- Parmenter, Joshua R.—Company K, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 16th, 1861.
- Parmenter, William A.—Company E, Fifty-second Regiment. Enlisted October 11, 1862.
- Partridge, Daniel W.—Company G, Thirty-sixth Regiment. Enlisted August 7th, 1862.
- Peacock, James—Company D, Fifteenth Regiment; Lieutenant, Company D, Fifty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted July 12th, 1861; re-enlisted April 9th, 1864.
- Putnam, Austin—Company A, Thirty-fourth Regiment. Enlisted July 22nd, 1862.

---

† Served in a South Carolina Regiment.



- Rood, James T.—Assistant Surgeon, Twenty-eighth Regiment. Enlisted August 11th, 1862.
- Sault, Julius—Company A, First Vermont Cavalry. Enlisted December 5th 1861.
- Sawyer, John G.—Company . ., First Regiment, Heavy Artillery. Enlisted August 14th, 1862.
- Schofield, John E.—Company D, Fifty-first Regiment. Enlisted October 14th, 1862.
- Skiff, Austin E.—Sergeant, Company F, Fifty-seventh Illinois. Enlisted October 17th, 1861.
- Spaulding, J. Calvin—Sergeant, Company F, Twenty-fifth Regiment. Enlisted September 16th, 1861.
- Streeter, Edwin H.—Corporal, Company I, Ninth New Hampshire. Enlisted August 4th, 1862.
- Strong, Luther W.—Company C, Fifty-first Regiment; Sergeant, Company D, Fourth Regiment Heavy Artillery. Enlisted August 20th, 1862; re-enlisted August 25th, 1864.
- Thompson, William—Seventy-ninth New York. Enlisted March 1st, 1865.
- Truchon, Charles L.—Sergeant, Company E, Forty-second Regiment. Enlisted September 30th, 1862.
- Turner, Charles F.—Company F, Thirty-seventh Regiment. Enlisted August 1st, 1862.
- Tuttle, Fred H.
- Verry, Herbert W.—Company A, Twenty-third Regiment. Enlisted January 3rd, 1864.
- Whitney, Jonas L.—Company A, Twenty-third Regiment. Enlisted September 20th, 1861.
- Whittemore, Hezekiah P.—Corporal, Company E, Fourth Cavalry. Enlisted January 5th, 1864.
- Woodbury, Robert—Company B, Frontier Cavalry. Enlisted December 31st, 1864.

List of Grenadier Company from 1816-1837 is as follows:

## 1816

Jervis Abbott	John Rogers, 2nd	Joel Howe
Amasa Boyden	Samuel Dunton	Leonard Fales
Wm. Drury, Jr.	John Keyes	Simon Hubbard
David Fisk	Simon Chaffin	Chauncy Rugg
Thomas Jones Davis	Thomas Davis, Jr.	Jonathan Chaffin
Seth Clapp, Jr.	Cyrus Dryden	Joseph Howard, Jr.
Leonard Fisk	Samuel Munroe	David Clapp
Jotham Bigelow	Walter Lee	David Winch
Warren Flagg	Luther Goddard	Jacob Howard
	Silas Flagg	

## 1817

Luther Nash	Chenery Abbott	Sparrow Crosby, Jr.
Micah Holbrook	John Fales	David Cook
Daniel Rogers	Abraham Goddard	Samuel Chickering
David Hoyt	Joseph White	Royal H. Chaffin
John P. Maynard	Merrill Davis	Daniel Knowlton, Jr.
James Maddocks	Jones Estabrook	Joseph Crosby
Amos Adams	Nathan Goodell	Simon Black
Leonard Chenery	Joseph Barbour	Stilman Howe
	Rufus P. Fuller	

## 1818

David Partridge	Dennis Davis	John Buss
	Artemas White	

## 1819

Samuel Stratton, Jr.	Jason Mann	Daniel Hubbard
Benjamin Pierce	Elisha Bartlett	Caleb Rogers
	Thomas Jefferson Davis	



## 1820

John Spring	Samuel D. Greenwood	Ebenezer R. Perry
Abel Drury	Charles B. Maynard	George W. Perry

## 1821

William Flagg	Gardner Davis	Joseph Parminter
Emerson Hubbard	Jonathan Munroe	William Mathews
Lyman Bryant	Addison Davis	Joel Davis
	Oliver Stone	

## 1822

Daniel Knowlton, Jr.	John E. Willington	David Davis
Addison Arnold	Charles Goodnow	Henry Goulding
Hezekiah Bent	William Kendall	Samuel A. Wheeler

## 1823

Joseph Davis	Moses G. Allen	Moses Newell
Curtis Knowlton	Nathan Rogers, Jr.	Warren Davis
Oren Flagg		William Bassett

## 1824

John L. Davis	William Kendall	Stilman Estabrook
Newman Allen		Abner Perry, Jr.

## 1825

Baylies Upham	William Davis	Elnathan Davis
Alonzo L. Ware	Nahum Howe	Caleb Kendall, Jr.
Moses Smith	Samuel D. Darling	Benjamin T. Southwick
Leonard Fales		Nathaniel Sibley

## 1826

Joab S. Holt	John L. Hewet	Hollis Ball
John Richardson	Rufus F. Bacon	Abner Rogers
James Bacon	Elias B. Flagg	Davis Fisk, 2nd
Philo Smith	Jeremiah Knowlton	Joseph D. Fuller
	Jason Knowlton	

## 1827

Harrison Bixby	Moses Winn	Edward Richardson
Albert M. Bartlett	Silas Dodd	Silas Smith
Alfred P. Bartlett	Francis Davis	Asa Holbrook
Stilman Hubbard	Samuel Temple	Caleb S. Fisk
	Edmund Johnson	

## 1828

Amos H. Newell	Gilman Darling	Elisha Tucker
Peter S. Winn		Prescott B. Albee

## 1829

Daniel F. Hubbard	Simon G. Harrington	Dwight F. Eager
Joseph Fisk	William Rogers	Aaron Newell

## 1830

Horace Nichols	John E. Smith	James Hastings
Charles Hubbard	Ethan Davis, Jr.	Simon Howe
Lemuel Fisk, Jr.		Charles A. Barber

## 1831

Caleb G. Howe	John Coleigh	Joseph B. Hubbard
Sparrow C. Myrick	Simon Goodale	William G. Parker
Samuel B. Hubbard	Marshall P. Robinson	George Hastings
Austin Estabrook	Charles Ball	Austin Flagg



## 1832

Edward Bailey	Alfred F. Hastings	William Howe
Almon Samson	Marshall Hastings	Oliver C. Fairbank
William T. Watson	Squire Slocumb	George Thomas
Dexter Muzzy		Levi Morgan

## 1833

Samuel Carpenter	Ebenezer Estabrook	James Kendall
John Stone	Otis Smith	William J. Stratton
Moses L. Darling	Benjamin Sawyer	James Rawson
	Calvin D. Davis	

## 1834

Charles Wood	John M. Hubbard	John F. Smith
George Dryden	George Cheney	Elijah Wheelock
Daniel Willington	George Knowlton	Lothrop Dorman
Simon Crosby	William Willington	Gilbert Wheelock
Silas Barbour, Jr.		John B. Watson

## 1835

Merrick H. Houghton	Caleb K. Sawyer	Eli Darling
Nahum Newell	Ezra Sawyer	William Howe
Joseph Bassett	Samuel Black	Hendrick G. Smith
	William B. Wright	

## 1836

Ebenezer W. Howe	Danford Hall	Merrill Abbott
Charles Roper	Elisha Newell	Samuel Turner, Jr.
David C. Smith	James W. Rogers	George F. Wood
Samuel D. Hubbard	John Boyden	Alex Loveless
Isaac Damon	Beriah W. Hyde	Nye Moulton
	William W. Dodd	

## 1837

James F. Hervey

## SOLDIERS' MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

After the close of the war, surviving veterans and friends of soldiers organized a Soldiers' Monument Association.

When the Town Hall was rebuilt in 1876, the sum of five hundred dollars was paid by the Association toward the expense of the alterations with the privilege of placing suitable tablets in the Hall to commemorate the services of the soldiers who fell in the war.

This was done at a cost of six hundred dollars in addition, and the upper hall was made a "Memorial Hall."

On these four marble tablets are the names of thirty soldiers who gave their lives for their country that there might be

"One flag, one land, one heart, one hand,  
One nation evermore!"

### 21st Regiment

Capt. Ira J. Kelton,  
Died of wounds,  
Sept. 24, 1862.

Albert Creed,  
Died of wounds,  
May 2, 1862.

George T. Bigelow,  
Killed, Sept. 17, 1862.

John Fearing,  
Died of wounds,  
August 3, 1864.

### 25th Regiment

Edward Clark,  
Died, Sept. 18, 1863.

Lyman E. Keyes,  
Killed, June 3, 1864.

Charles Gibbs,  
Died, Sept. 13, 1864.

George W. Newell,  
Died of wounds,  
July 24, 1864.



James W. Goodnow,  
Died in Prison,  
Sept. 23, 1864.

Michael Riley,  
Killed, May 16, 1864.

James W. Haley,  
Died, Feb. 22, 1864.

John B. Savage,  
Died in Prison,  
Mar. 1, 1864.

### 34th Regiment

Amasa A. Howe,  
Died in Prison,  
Nov. 25, 1864.

George T. Johnson,  
Died, Jan. 4, 1865.

John R. Houghton,  
Died, Dec. 11, 1862.

William C. Perry,  
Died, Oct. 21, 1862.

### 36th Regiment

Levi Chamberlain,  
Killed, May 12, 1864.

Winslow B. Rogers,  
Died, July 25, 1863.

Calvin Hubbard,  
Died in Prison,  
Feb. 26, 1863.

Alfred S. Tucker,  
Died in Prison,  
Feb. 6, 1865.

Sergt. Harlan P. Moore,  
Died, Mar. 1, 1864.

Henry M. Holt,  
Died, Nov. 14, 1862.

### 56th Regiment

Frank Lumazette,  
Died of wounds,  
Aug. 13, 1864.

### 57th Regiment

H. Erskine Black,  
Died, Feb. 22, 1865.

Henry M. Fales,  
Killed, May 6, 1864.

Uriah Bassett,  
Killed, Aug. 19, 1864.

John Handley,  
Killed, May 6, 1864.

Elisha C. Davenport,  
Killed, May 6, 1864.

George Thurston,  
Died of wounds,  
June 3, 1864.

4th Cavalry

Horace L. Truesdell,  
Died of wounds,  
Apr. 15, 1865.

*Erected by the*  
HOLDEN SOLDIERS' MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.  
MDCCLXXVI

1898

HOLDEN IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN  
WAR

The following named persons, residents of Holden or having resided here, took part in the Spanish War:

Charles S. Holden, Captain, Company H, Second Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

Charles P. Reynolds, Company H, Second Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

Odiarne J. W. Gleason, Company C, Second Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

Edward Gilligan, Company F, Second Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

S. Walter Rogers, Company F, Sixth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

Andrew J. Latimer, Company B, Sixth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

Patrick J. Sullivan, Company G, Ninth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.



Edward A. Sullivan, Company G, Ninth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

Charles H. Harrison, Company A, First Vermont Volunteer Infantry.

William Veitch, Marine, U. S. Navy, Steamship Resolute.

Charles S. Devlin, Company B, Seventh U. S. Infantry.

Albert F. Whitman, Company H, Twelfth U. S. Infantry.

John F. Bergstrom, Company B, Twelfth U. S. Infantry.

1917

A committee consisting of George C. Johnson, Henry W. Warren and Edwin A. Richardson was appointed "to draft resolutions in view of the present critical condition of our international affairs." These resolutions were unanimously adopted.

### RESOLUTIONS

We, the citizens of the Town of Holden, State of Massachusetts, in town meeting assembled, in view of the present crisis in the affairs of our nation, while appreciating the efforts of our President to preserve peace, do hereby endorse the action taken by him in upholding the honor and rights of the United States.

As in the past the citizens of this town have been willing and ready to respond to the call of their country in times of imminent danger, so now, if the President and Congress deem it necessary to take more active measures to defend the rights of our nation, we have the assurance that the patriotic record of Holden in the past will be continued in the days to come.

## ROLL OF HONOR

## Town of Holden 1917-18

Those whose names appear here are in our country's service.

John Colone, Died September 27, 1918.

Oscar Fant, Killed in action, July 15, 1918.

John E. Harkins, Killed March 8, 1918.

Gustave E. Lindberg, Killed in action, October 5, 1918.

Nicholas Malooly, Died August 3, 1918.

Joseph W. Adams  
Clifden Agar  
Louis Allard  
Verner L. Anderson  
Carlyle A. Atherton  
Charles Bailey  
Richard Barlow  
George L. Battye  
Antonia Berube  
Foster J. Brissette  
Louis J. Brissette  
Roland J. Brissette  
Alfred H. Buss  
Ennio Camillion  
Eugene Chadzynski  
Dennis L. Cobb  
Eben H. Cobb  
William Converse  
George M. Coskey  
Harold C. David  
Edward J. Dickman  
Thomas Dickman, Jr.  
William C. Denaris  
George D. Drawbridge  
Richard R. Dockham  
Alfred B. Drawbridge

Charles K. Dunker  
George Dunker  
Wesley W. Durant  
Roger M. Fales  
John Forgit  
Elmer M. Freeland  
Rudolph Freeland  
Robert D. Fuller  
Bernard J. Gilbride  
Ralph W. Hammond  
Henry Handzynski  
James W. Hanley  
Nicholas F. Hanley  
D. Frank Harrington  
Miller Henderson  
Gustave A. Hiding  
Edgar W. Holden  
J. Stanley Holt  
Charles H. Horstman  
Clifford Howe  
Harold B. Janes  
Arvid F. Johnson  
A. Harmon Johnson  
Carl F. Johnson  
Oscar T. Johnson  
Robert H. Johnson



Edward Dana Kendall  
 Francis Paton Kendall  
 F. Boyden Kelton  
 Randolph F. Kohlstrom  
 Rudolph F. Kohlstrom  
 Einar Larson  
 Oscar G. Larson  
 Edmund H. Larcheveque  
 Ernest Lemelin  
 Joseph F. Lemelin  
 Michael Leonard  
 Everett W. Lewis  
 Albert Lindquist  
 Harry G. Lindquist  
 Enoch P. Lindstrom  
 Wesley H. Lowell  
 John D. Lynch  
 James R. Mainey  
 Walter E. Marsh  
 John J. Manning  
 William J. Marlowe  
 George N. Matthews  
 Robert A. Matthews  
 Charles J. McDonald  
 Edward J. McLoughlin  
 Michael J. McSherry  
 Robert E. Miller  
 John P. Millet, Jr.  
 Arthur Nadeau  
 Dennis H. Nawn  
 Emmet R. Nawn  
 James W. Nawn  
 William J. Nawn  
 Einar Nelson  
 Charles L. Niles

Frank Niles  
 John P. Oberg  
 William S. Ottoson  
 Clarence R. Perry  
 C. Arthur Pierce  
 Stephan Pirozok  
 Peter Pirozok  
 Charles A. Porter  
 Charles J. Reeves  
 Henry W. Reeves  
 Robert P. Russell  
 Charles Salvanyus  
 Harry Scott  
 Daniel W. Shewbrooks  
 Arthur Spring  
 Harold A. Stevens  
 William P. Sullivan  
 Edwin W. Truesdell  
 Harold Ulfves  
 W. Goulding Warren  
 Frank H. Washburn, Jr.  
 Albert E. Whittles  
 Frank Wissell  
 Antonio Zottoli  
 Robert N. Oxford  
 Martin Johanson  
 Philip R. Swenson  
 Eric Hiding  
 William J. Dickman  
 John L. Huistis  
 Allen T. Moulton  
 \*James Bright, Jr.  
 \*James J. Hennessey  
 \*Amadee Guertin  
 Miss Florence L. Howe

---

\* Canadian Army.





## Chapter XIX

# Vital Statistics

---

Births, marriages and deaths recorded in Holden,  
from

<i>Births</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
	1850-1900	
2688	984	1863
	1900-1940	
1355	3353	2150

## POPULATION OF HOLDEN

1760	535
1765	495
1776	749
1790	1,077
1800	1,142
1810	1,072
1820	1,402
1830	1,719
1840	1,874
1850	1,933
1855	2,114
1860	1,945
1865	1,846
1870	2,062
1875	2,180

1880	2,499
1885	2,471
1890	2,623
1895	2,602
1900	2,464
1905	2,040
1910	2,147
1915	2,514
1920	2,970
1925	3,436
1930	3,871
1935	3,914
1940	3,924

## TOWN CLERKS.

Cyprian Stevens,	1741-1746.
Samuel Heywood,	1747-1751.
Samuel Peirce,	1752.
Joseph Greenwood,	1753.
Samuel Peirce,	1754-1757.
Israel Davis,	1758-1774.
John Child, Jr.,	1775-1777.
Israel Davis,	1778-1781.
John Child,	1782.
David Fisk,	1783-1786.
Noah Haven,	1787.
David Fisk,	1788-1789.
John Dodds,	1790-1801.
William Dodds,	1802.
Paul Davis,	1803-1820.



Paul Davis, Jr.,	1821-1857. <sup>1</sup>
John E. Chaffin,	1858-1863.
Isaac Damon,	1864-1867.
Samuel W. Armington,	1868-1869.
George F. Rogers,	1870-1873. <sup>2</sup>
Samuel W. Armington,	1873.
Isaac Damon,	1874-1892.
Samuel W. Armington,	1893-1909.
Jesse M. Allen,	1910.
Clifford W. Stickney,	1911-1923.
Frances A. Phillips, (resigned)	1924-1930. <sup>3</sup>
Ralph D. Stickney,	1930-1939. <sup>4</sup>
Walter W. Gleason,	1939.*

---

<sup>1</sup>At the retirement of Major Davis from his office, the town passed the following resolutions, which are unique in the history of the town.

"WHEREAS, Maj. Paul Davis has served this town as Clerk for the long period of thirty-seven years, and has performed the duties of the office to the entire satisfaction of the town, and WHEREAS, he has this day voluntarily retired from the office, therefore

"*Resolved*, That the thanks of this town be thus publicly tendered to Maj. Davis for the services he has rendered the town in the capacity of its Clerk.

"*Resolved*, That a copy of this vote, signed by the Moderator and Clerk, be tendered to Maj. Davis, and that the same be entered upon the records of the Town.

T. E. HALL, Moderator.

JOHN E. CHAFFIN, Clerk."

<sup>2</sup>Resigned June 17th, 1873.

<sup>3</sup>Appointed to fill vacancy.

<sup>4</sup>Resigned July 1st, 1939.

\*Appointed Pro-tem 1939.

## TOWN TREASURERS.

William Nichols,	1741.
John Bigelow,	1742.
William Nichols,	1743.
Samuel Thompson,	1744.
William Nichols,	1745.
Samuel Heywood,	1746-1749.
John Bigelow,	1750.
Israel Davis,	1751.
Joseph Hubbard,	1752-1755.
Israel Davis,	1756-1758.
Jonathan Lovell,	1759.
Bezaleel Fiske,	1760-1761.
Samuel Hubbard,	1762-1771.
Nathan Harrington,	1772-1778.
Paul Davis,	1779. <sup>1</sup>
Nathan Harrington,	1779-1783.
James Davis,	1784-1791.
Elisha Hubbard,	1792-1803.
Elnathan Davis,	1804.
Ethan Davis,	1805-1806.
Samuel Damon,	1807.
Ethan Davis,	1808-1826.
Samuel Damon,	1827-1839.
Paul Davis,	1840-1851.
Charles L. Knowlton,	1852-1855.
Joseph Davis,	1856-1857.
Charles Knowlton,	1858-1870.
Charles Flagg,	1871-1872.
Samuel W. Armington,	1873-1876. <sup>2</sup>
Charles Flagg,	1876.
Leonard B. Brigham,	1877-1881.
Fred H. Fales,	1882-1885.
Leonard B. Brigham,	1886-1887.
Henry W. Warren,	1888-1896.

<sup>1</sup>Till July 5th.<sup>2</sup>Resigned May 1st, 1876.



Fred H. Fales,	1897-1907.
Stillman F. Morse,	1908-1916.
George C. Johnson,	1917-

## REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GENERAL COURT.

John Child, Jr.,	1780.
Joseph Davis,	1781.
John Child, Jr.,	1782-1783.
Israel Davis, Jr.,	1786.
Josiah Stratton,	1787.
John Child, Jr.,	1790.
John Dodd,	1792-1793.
	1795-1796.
	1798-1800.
	1801.
William Drury,	1802.
Elnathan Davis,	1803-1804.
William Drury,	1805-1813.
Ebenezer Estabrook,	1814-1816.
Ethan Davis,	1817.
Ebenezer Estabrook,	1819.
William Drury,	1820.
Ethan Davis,	1821.
Samuel Damon,	1823-1824.
Ethan Davis,	1826.
Silas Flagg,	1828-1829.
Asa Broad,	1830.
Asa Broad,	1831.
Samuel Damon,	
Samuel Damon,	1833-1834.
Charles Chaffin,	
Charles Chaffin,	1835.
Paul Davis,	
Paul Davis,	1836.
Silas Flagg,	

Paul Davis,	}	1837.
Silas Flagg,		
Willis Smith,		1838.
Silas Flagg,	}	1839-1840.
Tilla Chaffin,		
John Richardson,		1841-1842.
William Flagg,		1843.
Ira Broad,		1844.
David Davis,		1845.
Samuel D. Greenwood,		1847-1848.
James E. Cheney,		1849.
Ira Broad,		1850.
George W. Bascom,		1851-1852.
Charles L. Knowlton,		1853.
Charles Burnett,		1854.
William C. Metcalf,		1855.
Silas Flagg,		1856.
Jonathan Ladd,		1857. <sup>1</sup>
Isaac Damon,		1858-1861.
Nathan Howe,		1864.
Theron E. Hall,		1866.
Samuel Warren,		1867.
Isaac N. Ross,		1871-1872.
William Howe,		1878.
Henry W. Warren,		1882-1885.
Samuel W. Armington,		1887.
Stillman F. Morse,		1892.

*Third Worcester District*

Waldo E. Austin,	1895.
Charles E. Parker,	1897.
Waterman L. Williams,	1907-1915.

---

<sup>1</sup>Since 1857 Holden has been districted with other towns for the election of a Representative. In 1857 it was classed with Paxton and West Boylston; in 1866, with Oakham, Princeton and Rutland; in 1876, with Leicester, Paxton and Rutland; in 1886, with Hubbardston, Paxton, Princeton and Westminster.



*Tenth Worcester District*

Waterman L. Williams, 1916.

*Ninth Worcester District*

W. Goulding Warren, 1932.

John Child represented the town in the Provincial Congress in 1775, and in the "Great and General Court" the same year. In 1776 and 1777 James Davis was sent to the General Court.

Richard Flagg was sent in 1779 to the Convention that framed the Constitution. Charles L. Knowlton was delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1853.

## SELECTMEN.

1741.

Simon Davis,  
John Bigelow,  
Cyprian Stevens.

1742.

Simon Davis,  
John Bigelow,  
Samuel Thompson.

1743.

Simon Davis,  
John Bigelow,  
Samuel Pierce.

1744.

Cyprian Stevens,  
John Bigelow,  
Samuel Heywood.

1745.

John Bigelow,  
Cyprian Stevens,  
David Brown.

1746.

John Bigelow,  
Samuel Pierce,  
Cyprian Stevens.

1747.

Samuel Hubbard,  
Jonathan Lovell,  
William Nichols.

1748.

Samuel Pierce,  
John Bigelow,  
Samuel Heywood.

1749.

John Bigelow,  
Samuel Pierce,  
Samuel Heywood.

1750.

Samuel Pierce,  
John Bigelow,  
Samuel Heywood.

1751.

John Bigelow,  
Samuel Pierce,  
Samuel Heywood.

1752.

Samuel Pierce,  
Richard Flagg,  
Jonathan Lovell.

1753.

Richard Flagg,  
Israel Davis,  
Samuel Hubbard,  
Joseph Hubbard,  
Joseph Greenwood.

1754.

Richard Flagg,  
Israel Davis,  
Samuel Hubbard,  
Joseph Hubbard,  
Samuel Thompson.

1755.

John Bigelow,  
Richard Flagg,  
Israel Davis,  
Samuel Hubbard,  
Joseph Hubbard.

1756.

Samuel Pierce,  
Richard Flagg,  
John Bigelow,  
James Boyd,  
Amos Heywood.

1757.

Samuel Pierce,  
Richard Flagg,  
Samuel Hubbard,  
Amos Heywood,  
James Boyd.

1758.

Samuel Pierce,  
James Boyd,  
Richard Flagg,  
Israel Davis,  
John Child.

1759.

Israel Davis,  
Samuel Heywood,  
Jonathan Lovell,  
Benjamin Howard,  
Bezaleel Fisk.

1760.

Israel Davis,  
Richard Flagg,  
Samuel Heywood,  
Bezaleel Fisk,  
Jonathan Lovell.



1761.

Joseph Greenwood,  
Joseph Hubbard,  
Jonathan Rice,  
David Fisk,  
John Bigelow.

1762.

Amos Heywood,  
Samuel Hubbard,  
John Child,  
Joseph Hubbard,  
David Fisk.

1763.

Richard Flagg,  
Israel Davis,  
Amos Heywood,  
Jonathan Wheeler,  
John Child.

1764.

Israel Davis,  
Joseph Hubbard,  
Samuel Heywood,  
Samuel Hubbard,  
John Child.

1765.

Israel Davis,  
Joseph Hubbard,  
John Child,  
Isaac Smith,  
Benjamin Mead.

1766.

Israel Davis,  
Samuel Heywood,  
Joseph Hubbard,  
John Child,  
Benjamin Mead.

1767.

Israel Davis,  
John Child,  
Joseph Hubbard,  
Jonathan Rice,  
Benjamin Mead.

1768.

Israel Davis,  
Jonathan Rice,  
Benjamin Mead,  
Paul Raymond,  
Ignatius Goulding.

1769.

Israel Davis,  
David Fisk,  
Benjamin Mead,  
Paul Raymond,  
Jonathan Rice.

1770.

Israel Davis,  
Jonathan Rice,  
David Fisk,  
John Child,  
Benjamin Mead.

1771.

Israel Davis,  
John Child,  
David Fisk,  
Jonathan Rice,  
Benjamin Mead.

1772.

John Child,  
Joseph Hubbard,  
Jonathan Wheeler,  
Andrew Smith,  
James Davis.

1773.

John Child,  
Benjamin Mead,  
Joseph Hubbard,  
James Davis,  
Paul Raymond.

1774.

John Child,  
Benjamin Mead,  
James Davis,  
Jonathan Rice,  
Paul Raymond.

1775.

John Child,  
Jonathan Rice,  
James Davis,  
Benjamin Mead,  
Paul Raymond.

1776.

John Child,  
Jonathan Rice,  
Paul Raymond,  
Moses Smith,  
James Davis.

1777.

David Fisk,  
Paul Raymond,  
James Davis,  
Moses Smith,  
John Child, Jr.

1778.

David Fisk,  
Moses Smith,  
James Davis,  
Jason Gleason,  
John Perry.

1779.

James Davis,  
Richard Flagg,  
Benjamin Mead,  
Jason Gleason,  
John Perry.

1780.

Richard Flagg,  
Moses Smith,  
Amos Heywood,  
John Perry,  
Samuel Thompson.

1781.

John Perry,  
Elisha Hubbard,  
Noah Haven,  
Francis Willson,  
Paul Goodale.

1782.

John Child,  
Elisha Hubbard,  
William Nichols,  
Samuel Thompson,  
Josiah Stratton.

1783.

David Fisk,  
John Child,  
Elisha Hubbard,  
Samuel Thompson,  
Noah Haven.

1784.

James Davis,  
Ebenezer Estabrook,  
Henry Taft,  
Israel Davis, Jr.,  
Elisha Mirick.



1785.

Nathan Harrington,  
Ebenezer Estabrook,  
Isaac Chenery,  
Israel Davis, Jr.,  
Elisha Mirick.

1786.

Israel Davis, Jr.,  
Ebenezer Estabrook,  
Elisha Hubbard,  
Isaac Chenery,  
John Dodd.

1787.

Israel Davis, Jr.,  
Samuel Hubbard,  
Elisha Hubbard,  
Paul Goodale,  
Isaiah Brown.

1788.

Josiah Stratton,  
Ebenezer Estabrook,  
Isaac Chenery,  
Jason Gleason,  
Francis Willson.

1789.

Josiah Stratton,  
Isaac Chenery,  
Henry Taft,  
John Davis,  
David Smith.

1790.

Josiah Stratton,  
Ebenezer Estabrook,  
Henry Taft,  
John Davis,  
David Smith.

1791.

Josiah Stratton,  
Ebenezer Estabrook,  
Henry Taft,  
John Davis,  
David Smith.

1792.

Samuel Hubbard,  
John Davis,  
George Webb,  
David Smith,  
Samuel Damon.

1793.

Samuel Hubbard,  
John Davis,  
George Webb,  
David Smith,  
Samuel Damon.

1794.

Samuel Hubbard,  
Ebenezer Estabrook,  
David Smith,  
John Dodd,  
Samuel Damon.

1795.

Samuel Hubbard,  
John Dodd,  
David Smith,  
Samuel Damon,  
William Drury.

1796.

John Dodd,  
John Davis,  
David Smith,  
Samuel Damon,  
William Drury.

1797.

John Dodd,  
John Davis,  
David Smith,  
Samuel Damon,  
William Drury.

1798.

Samuel Hubbard,  
Ebenezer Estabrook,  
Peter Hubbard,  
Lemuel Abbott,  
Elnathan Davis,

1799.

Samuel Hubbard,  
Ebenezer Estabrook,  
Peter Hubbard,  
Lemuel Abbott,  
James Dodd.

1800.

Samuel Hubbard,  
Ebenezer Estabrook,  
Peter Hubbard,  
Lemuel Abbott,  
James Dodd.

1801.

Samuel Hubbard,  
Ebenezer Estabrook,  
Lemuel Abbott,  
William Drury,  
Joseph Daniels.

1802.

Ebenezer Estabrook,  
Lemuel Abbott,  
William Drury,  
Joseph Daniels,  
Elnathan Davis.

1803.

Ebenezer Estabrook,  
Lemuel Abbott,  
William Drury,  
Joseph Daniels,  
Elnathan Davis.

1804.

Lemuel Abbott,  
William Drury,  
Elnathan Davis,  
Tilla Chaffin,  
Asa Wheeler.

1805.

Lemuel Abbott,  
William Drury,  
Tilla Chaffin,  
Asa Wheeler,  
Ethan Davis.

1806.

Lemuel Abbott,  
Tilla Chaffin,  
Asa Wheeler,  
Ethan Davis,  
Heman Richardson.

1807.

Tilla Chaffin,  
Asa Wheeler,  
Ethan Davis,  
Heman Richardson,  
Samuel Heywood,

1808.

Tilla Chaffin,  
Asa Wheeler,  
Ethan Davis,  
Heman Richardson,  
Samuel Heywood.



1809.

Asa Wheeler,  
Ethan Davis,  
Heman Richardson,  
Samuel Heywood,  
Asa Greenwood.

1810.

Ethan Davis,  
Heman Richardson,  
Samuel Heywood,  
Asa Greenwood,  
Lemuel Davis.

1811.

Ethan Davis,  
Heman Richardson,  
Samuel Heywood,  
Asa Greenwood,  
Lemuel Davis.

1812.

Ethan Davis,  
Asa Greenwood,  
Lemuel Davis,  
John Chaffin,  
Abner Perry.

1813.

Ethan Davis,  
Asa Greenwood,  
Lemuel Davis,  
John Chaffin,  
Abner Perry.

1814.

Ethan Davis,  
Asa Greenwood,  
Lemuel Davis,  
John Chaffin,  
Abner Perry.

1815.

Ethan Davis,  
Asa Greenwood,  
John Chaffin,  
Abner Perry,  
Slias Flagg.

1816.

Ethan Davis,  
Asa Greenwood,  
John Chaffin,  
Paul Davis, Jr.,  
Samuel Damon.

1817.

Ethan Davis,  
Asa Greenwood,  
Paul Davis, Jr.,  
Samuel Damon,  
Silas Flagg.

1818.

Asa Greenwood,  
Paul Davis, Jr.,  
Samuel Damon,  
Silas Flagg,  
James Bailey.

1819.

Paul Davis, Jr.,  
Samuel Damon,  
Silas Flagg,  
James Bailey,  
Daniel Knowlton.

1820.

Samuel Damon,  
Silas Flagg,  
Daniel Knowlton,  
Abner Perry,  
John Davis.

1821.

Samuel Damon,  
Silas Flagg,  
Abner Perry,  
John Davis,  
James Estabrook.

1822.

Silas Flagg,  
Abner Perry,  
James Estabrook,  
William Metcalf,  
Samuel Foster.

1823.

Silas Flagg,  
Abner Perry,  
James Estabrook,  
William Metcalf,  
Samuel Foster.

1824.

Silas Flagg,  
Abner Perry,  
James Estabrook,  
William Metcalf,  
Samuel Foster.

1825.

Silas Flagg,  
Abner Perry,  
William Metcalf,  
Samuel Foster,  
William Flagg.

1826.

Silas Flagg,  
Abner Perry,  
William Metcalf,  
William Flagg,  
Thomas J. Davis.

1827.

Samuel Damon,  
William Flagg,  
Thomas Howe,  
Samuel W. Hubbard,  
Farnum White.

1828.

Samuel Damon,  
William Flagg,  
Thomas Howe,  
Samuel W. Hubbard,  
Farnum White.

1829.

Samuel Damon,  
Thomas Howe,  
Samuel W. Hubbard,  
Farnum White,  
Charles Chaffin.

1830.

Samuel Damon,  
Farnum White,  
Charles Chaffin,  
William Metcalf,  
George Flagg.

1831.

Farnum White,  
Charles Chaffin,  
George Flagg,  
Thomas Howe,  
Tilla Chaffin, Jr.

1832.

Charles Chaffin,  
Thomas Howe,  
George Flagg,  
John Lovell,  
John F. Smith.



1833.

Charles Chaffin,  
George Flagg,  
Tilla Chaffin, Jr.,  
Dennis Davis,  
Barney Howe.

1834.

Charles Chaffin,  
Thomas Howe,  
John Lovell,  
Thomas J. Davis,  
Stillman Estabrook.

1835.

Charles Chaffin,  
Thomas Howe,  
Thomas J. Davis,  
Stillman Estabrook,  
John M. Goodell.

1836.

Samuel Damon,  
Thomas J. Davis,  
Stillman Estabrook,  
John M. Goodell,  
Joel Walker.

1837.

Paul Davis,  
Barney Howe,  
Joel Walker,  
Willis Smith,  
Jacob Howard.

1838.

Paul Davis,  
Willis Smith,  
Samuel D. Greenwood,  
Jonathan Chaffin,  
John Jefferson.

1839.

Willis Smith,  
Samuel D. Greenwood,  
Jonathan Chaffin,  
Lyman Bryant,  
James Winch.

1840.

Samuel D. Greenwood,  
Lyman Bryant,  
James Winch,  
Thomas J. Davis,  
George Flagg.

1841.

Charles Chaffin,  
Thomas J. Davis,  
George Flagg,  
John Richardson,  
James S. Moore.

1842.

Charles Chaffin,  
Thomas J. Davis,  
James S. Moore,  
John Richardson,  
John Watson.

1843.

Samuel D. Greenwood,  
James S. Moore,  
John Watson,  
Willis Smith,  
Ethan Davis.

1844.

Samuel D. Greenwood,  
David Davis,  
Lyman Bryant,  
Willis Smith,  
Ethan Davis.

1845.

Samuel D. Greenwood,  
David Davis,  
Lyman Bryant,  
George W. Bascom,  
Asa Broad.

1846.

Samuel D. Greenwood,  
Lyman Bryant,  
George W. Bascom,  
Asa Broad,  
Stillman Hubbard.

1847.

Samuel D. Greenwood,  
Lyman Bryant,  
George W. Bascom,  
Asa Broad,  
Elisha Chaffin.

1848.

Le Baron Putnam,  
Asa Broad,  
Elisha Chaffin,  
Isaac Damon,  
Willard Allen.

1849.

Charles Chaffin,  
Asa Broad,  
Willard Allen,  
Nathan Howe,  
Stillman Hubbard.

1850.

Samuel D. Greenwood,  
Ira Broad,  
Willard Allen,  
Nathan Howe,  
William Howe.

1851.

Willard Allen,  
Nathan Howe,  
Ira Broad,  
William Howe,  
John Richardson.

1852.

Samuel D. Greenwood,  
John Richardson,  
Alfred Sawyer,  
Charles Bryant,  
Dexter Broad.

1853.

Samuel D. Greenwood,  
John Richardson,  
Charles Bryant,  
Alfred Sawyer,  
Danford Hall.

1854.

Charles Bryant,  
Joseph Davis,  
Silas Flagg, Jr.,  
Joab S. Holt,  
John W. Howe.

1855.

Joseph Davis,  
Samuel D. Hubbard,  
Timothy Parker,  
Newell Moore,  
William C. Metcalf.

1856.

William C. Metcalf,  
Timothy Parker,  
Jonathan M. Ladd,  
Simon Hubbard,  
Newell Moore.



1857.

Joseph Davis,  
Ira Broad,  
William Howe,  
Sumner Chamberlain,  
Augustus F. Damon

1858.

Ira Broad,  
Sumner Chamberlain,  
Augustus F. Damon,  
George S. Goddard,  
Alfred Chaffin.

1859.

Ira Broad,  
Sumner Chamberlain,  
George S. Goddard,  
Alfred Chaffin,  
John E. Chaffin.

1860.

Isaac Damon,  
Sumner Chamberlain,  
George S. Goddard,  
John E. Chaffin,  
James S. Cheney.

1861.

Sumner Chamberlain,  
John E. Chaffin,  
James E. Cheney,  
Charles Turner,  
William H. Walker.

1862.

John E. Chaffin,  
Charles Turner,  
William H. Walker,  
George Bascom,  
Martin V. B. Jefferson.

1863.

Ira Broad,  
Sumner Chamberlain,  
Martin V. B. Jefferson,  
J. Warren Rogers,  
William H. Drury.

1864.

Ira Broad,  
Sumner Chamberlain,  
Martin V. B. Jefferson,  
J. Warren Rogers,  
William H. Drury.

1865.

Ira Broad,  
Sumner Chamberlain,  
J. Warren Rogers,  
Church Howe,  
Alfred Sawyer.

1866.

Ira Broad,  
Sumner Chamberlain,  
J. Warren Rogers,  
Church Howe,  
Martin V. B. Jefferson.

1867.

Ira Broad,  
Martin V. B. Jefferson,  
J. Warren Rogers,  
Austin Flagg,  
George Howe.

1868.

Ira Broad,  
Martin V. B. Jefferson,  
J. Warren Rogers,  
George Howe,  
Charles Flagg.

1869.

Martin V. B. Jefferson,  
George Howe,  
Charles Flagg,  
Samuel D. Hubbard,  
James H. Wright.

1870.

Martin V. B. Jefferson,  
George Howe,  
Charles Flagg,  
Samuel D. Hubbard,  
James H. Wright.

1871.

Samuel D. Hubbard,  
Charles Flagg,  
Austin W. Ward.

1872.

Charles Flagg,  
Austin W. Ward,  
John Adams,  
James H. Wright,  
Samuel Warren.

1873.

Austin W. Ward,  
Samuel Warren,  
James H. Wright.

1874.

James H. Wright,  
William Howe,  
William H. Fairbanks.

1875.

Martin V. B. Jefferson,  
William H. Fairbanks,  
Edward W. Merrick,  
George Howe,  
James T. Rood,  
William H. Drury.<sup>1</sup>

1876.

William C. Metcalf,  
Charles Flagg,  
William H. Drury.

1877.

William C. Metcalf,  
William H. Drury,  
Henry W. Warren.

1878.

William C. Metcalf,  
William H. Drury,  
Henry W. Warren.

1879.

Henry W. Warren,  
Gates Chapman,  
Charles Dawson.

1880.

Gates Chapman,  
Charles Dawson,  
Fred T. Holt,  
Isaac Damon.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Chosen June 1st in place of Martin V. B. Jefferson, resigned.

<sup>2</sup>Chosen October 23rd in place of Gates Chapman, resigned.



1881.

Charles Dawson,  
Waldo E. Austin,  
Samuel W. Armington.

1882.

Waldo E. Austin,  
Isaac Damon,  
Fred T. Holt.

1883.

Waldo E. Austin,  
Isaac Damon,  
Fred T. Holt.

1884.

Henry W. Warren,  
Fred T. Holt,  
Albert A. Metcalf.

1885.

Isaac Damon,  
Charles E. Parker,  
Artemas D. Bascom.

1886.

Isaac Damon,  
Charles E. Parker,  
Artemas D. Bascom.

1887.

William H. Drury,  
William J. Prendergast,  
Albert A. Metcalf.

1888.

Isaac Damon,  
Charles E. Parker,  
William J. Prendergast

1889.

Isaac Damon,  
Charles E. Parker,  
William J. Prendergast.

1890.

Charles E. Parker,  
Stillman F. Morse,  
Thomas Hennessey.

1891.

Stillman F. Morse,  
Albert A. Metcalf,  
Emory Rogers.

1892.

Stillman F. Morse,  
Albert A. Metcalf,  
Emory Rogers.

1893.

Dennis W. Harrington,  
Fred T. Holt,  
Albert A. Metcalf.

1894.

Albert A. Metcalf,  
Dennis W. Harrington,  
Fred T. Holt.

1895.

Dennis W. Harrington,  
Fred T. Holt,  
Albert A. Metcalf.

1896.

Fred T. Holt,  
Thomas Hennessey,  
Gustavus S. Holden.

1897.

Fred T. Holt,  
Gustavus S. Holden,  
Charles H. Marsh.

1898.

Fred T. Holt,  
Charles H. Marsh,  
Charles A. Dawson.

1899.

Fred T. Holt,  
Charles H. Marsh,  
Charles A. Dawson.

1900.

Fred T. Holt,  
Charles H. Marsh,  
Charles A. Dawson.

1901.

Fred T. Holt,  
Charles H. Marsh,  
Charles A. Dawson.

1902.

Fred T. Holt,<sup>1</sup>  
Charles H. Marsh,<sup>2</sup>  
Benn M. Chamberlain,  
Henry W. Warren.<sup>3</sup>

1903.

Henry W. Warren,  
Benn M. Chamberlain,  
J. Frank Wood.

1904.

Benn M. Chamberlain,  
Dennis W. Harrington,  
J. Frank Wood.

1905.

Benn M. Chamberlain,  
J. Winthrop Holt,  
J. Frank Wood.

1906.

Benn M. Chamberlain,  
J. Winthrop Holt,  
J. Frank Wood.

1907.

Benn M. Chamberlain,  
J. Winthrop Holt,  
J. Frank Wood.

1908.

Benn M. Chamberlain,  
J. Winthrop Holt,  
J. Frank Wood.

1909.

Benn M. Chamberlain,  
J. Winthrop Holt,  
Andrew R. Nelson.

1910.

J. Winthrop Holt,  
Andrew R. Nelson,  
Peter Carr.

---

<sup>1</sup>Deceased May, 1902.

<sup>2</sup>Deceased February, 1903.

<sup>3</sup>Elected June, 1902.



1911.

Frank E. Cook,  
Nathan W. Sanborn,  
Bengt Ottoson.

1912.

Frank E. Cook,  
Dennis W. Harrington,  
J. Winthrop Holt.

1913.

Frank E. Cook,  
Dennis W. Harrington,  
J. Winthrop Holt.

1914.

Chelsea B. Matthews,  
Dennis W. Harrington,  
J. Winthrop Holt.

1915.

Dennis W. Harrington,  
J. Winthrop Holt,  
Chelsea B. Matthews.

1916.

J. Winthrop Holt,  
Chelsea B. Matthews,  
Dennis W. Harrington.

1917.

Chelsea B. Matthews,  
Dennis W. Harrington,  
J. Winthrop Holt.

1918.

Dennis W. Harrington,  
J. Winthrop Holt,  
William J. Jamieson.

1919.

J. Winthrop Holt,  
William J. Jamieson,  
William H. Swenson.

1920.

William J. Jamieson,  
William H. Swenson,  
J. Winthrop Holt.

1921.

William H. Swenson,  
J. Winthrop Holt,  
William J. Jamieson.

1922.

J. Winthrop Holt,  
William J. Jamieson,  
William H. Swenson.

1923.

William J. Jamieson,  
William H. Swenson,  
J. Winthrop Holt.

1924.

William H. Swenson,  
Aaron L. Potter,  
Franklin C. Hubbard.

1925.

Aaron L. Potter,  
Carl F. Anderson,  
George H. Marsh.

1926.

Franklin C. Hubbard,  
William H. Swenson,  
James Hammond.

1927.

William H. Swenson,  
James Hammond,  
Franklin C. Hubbard.

1928.

James Hammond,  
Franklin C. Hubbard,  
Wesley H. Lowell.

1929.

Franklin C. Hubbard,  
Wesley H. Lowell,  
James Hammond.

1930.

Wesley H. Lowell,  
James Hammond,  
Franklin C. Hubbard.

1931.

James Hammond,  
Franklin C. Hubbard,  
Wesley H. Lowell.

1932.

Franklin C. Hubbard,  
Wesley H. Lowell,  
Robert Dea.

1933.

Wesley H. Lowell,  
Robert Dea,  
Daniel J. Harrington.

1934.

Robert Dea.  
Daniel J. Harrington,  
Wesley H. Lowell.

1935.

Daniel J. Harrington,  
Wesley H. Lowell,  
Robert Dea.

1936.

Wesley H. Lowell,  
Robert Dea,  
Daniel J. Harrington.

1937.

Robert Dea,  
Daniel J. Harrington,  
J. Stanley Holt.

1938.

Daniel J. Harrington,  
J. Stanley Holt,  
Robert Dea.

1939.

J. Stanley Holt,  
Robert Dea,  
Antonio Zottoli.

1940.

Robert Dea,  
Antonio Zottoli,  
J. Stanley Holt.

1941.

Antonio Zottoli,  
J. Stanley Holt,  
Daniel J. Harrington.









# Index

Bicentennial Celebration .....	283	Holden Spa .....	173
A Hymn—by the Late Pastor		Post Office Building ...	172
Emeritus .....	288	Red and White Store ..	174
Bicentennial Hymn .....	289	Warren Building .....	172
Centennial Hymn .....	287	Kelton's Market .....	172
Service of Re-Dedication ...	290	Jefferson .....	175
Today .....	306	Harrington's Market ...	176
200th Anniversary .....	283	Holden, G. S. and J. A.	177
Business in Holden		Jarvis' Store .....	178
Blacksmith Shops .....	180	Petts, L. G. and Co. ...	177
Boots and Shoes .....	179	River Bros. ....	177
Brick Yards .....	179	Sequin's and Coldwell's	
Funeral Directors .....	189	Stores .....	177
Frank H. Miles Co. ....	189	Quinapoxet .....	178
Garages and Gas Stations ..	184	Tanneries .....	182
Blodgett .....	185	Churches .....	31
Chaffin's .....	185	Baptist Church .....	38
Hackey .....	186	Congregational Church ....	31
Harrington .....	187	Immanuel Lutheran Church	54
Harrington's .....	185	Jefferson Chapel .....	52
Holden Center .....	186	Methodist Episcopal .....	45
Holt Coal Company .....	187	Missionaries .....	55
Holden Lumber and Sup-		Saint Mary's Church .....	47
ply Company .....	188	Swedish Congregational	
Holden Sand and Gravel		Church .....	52
Company .....	188	Universalist .....	44
Holden Trap Rock Co. ...	187	Celebrations .....	117
Sunnyside Garage .....	184	Centennial .....	117
Towle's .....	186	Hymn— <i>By Judah Wright</i>	122
Williams .....	186	Hymn— <i>By J. H. B.</i> .....	125
Ice Business .....	181	The Day We Celebrate ..	127
Newspapers .....	188	Sesquicentennial .....	134
Enterprise, The .....	189	Tercentenary .....	143
Holden District News ....	189	Tercentenary Hymn .....	144
Holden Enterprise, The ..	188	Cemeteries .....	109
Holden Times, The .....	188	First Burying Ground .....	109
Stores .....	169	Grove Cemetery .....	111
Chaffinville .....	178	St. Mary's Cemetery .....	113
Chaffin's Store .....	178	Early Town History .....	11
Dawson .....	179	Changes in Town Boundaries	17
Waite's Store .....	179	Early Wars .....	19
Holden		Death of George Washington	29
Casey's Store .....	174	Forces of Nature .....	147
Clover Farm Store ....	175	Blizzard of 1888 .....	150
Ellis' Market .....	175	Cyclone, The .....	148
Fales Building .....	171	Earthquakes .....	147
Community Stores Co.	171	Hurricane, 1938 .....	150
First National Store ...	173	Hancock Common .....	115
Hashey's Store .....	175	Holden District Hospital ....	99
Holden Hardware Co.	175	Woman's Auxiliary to the	
Holden Pharmacy .....	174	Holden District Hospital	106

- Hotels ..... 191  
 Abbott Tavern ..... 191  
 Brick City ..... 193  
 Eagle Lake House ..... 193  
 Eagleville Hotel ..... 193  
 Elmwood House ..... 194  
 Jefferson, The ..... 195  
 Mount Pleasant House .... 194  
 Rivers' Diner and Bowling  
 Alley ..... 196  
 Summit House ..... 196  
 Military ..... 307  
 List of Commissions issued to  
 Members of the "Rifle"  
 Company ..... 315  
 List of Grenadier Company,  
 1816-1837 ..... 332  
 List of Militia Men in the  
 War of the Revolution .. 310  
 List of Persons Receiving  
 Commissions in the Militia 311  
 List of Residents Known To  
 Have Served In Putting  
 Down the Rebellion ..... 327  
 List of Soldiers in the Con-  
 tinental Army ..... 309  
 List of Soldiers Who Served  
 in the War of the Re-  
 bellion ..... 316  
 Roll of Major Paul Raymond  
 Company ..... 307  
 Roll of Minute Company ... 308  
 Mills and Villages ..... 153  
 Austin's Mills ..... 167  
 Bryantville ..... 161  
 Canada Mills ..... 166  
 Chaffinville ..... 154  
 Dawsonville ..... 164  
 Eagleville ..... 155  
 Jeffersonville ..... 158  
 Lovellville ..... 163  
 North Woods ..... 160  
 Quinapoxet ..... 162  
 Springdale ..... 166  
 Unionville ..... 157  
 Old Houses ..... 265  
 Asa and Ira Broad Houses 266  
 Boyden House ..... 265  
 Captain George Webb House 281  
 Chaffin Houses ..... 267  
 Colonel Isaac Newton Ross  
 House ..... 280  
 Cyrus Chenery House ..... 268  
 Damon House ..... 269  
 Davis-Flagg House ..... 270  
 Dr. Isaac Chenery House .. 266  
 Dr. William P. Paine House 278  
 Ethan Davis Place ..... 271  
 Fales Homesteads ..... 273  
 Frost Homesteads, The .... 275  
 John Dodd House ..... 271  
 Jonathan Moore House .... 276  
 Mason Homestead ..... 276  
 Newell Homestead ..... 277  
 "Red House and Barn, The" 279  
 Rev. Joseph Avery House .. 265  
 Rev. Joseph Davis House .. 271  
 Rogers Homestead ..... 280  
 Silas M. Hubbard House .. 275  
 Timothy Parker Place ..... 278  
 Warren Homestead ..... 281  
 William Drury House ..... 272  
 Organizations ..... 233  
 Alpha Social Club ..... 243  
 American Legion Auxiliary,  
 Unit 42 ..... 254  
 A. O. U. W. Holden Lodge,  
 No. 201 ..... 243  
 Asnebumskit Tribe, Red Men 249  
 Boy Scouts ..... 246  
 Campfire Girls ..... 249  
 Captain George Webb Chap-  
 ter Daughters of the Amer-  
 ican Revolution ..... 247  
 Chaffin's Mothers Club .... 263  
 Chaffins School and Home  
 Club ..... 259  
 Chaffins Parent-Teacher As-  
 sociation ..... 259  
 Chatauqua Club ..... 241  
 Damon Camp, No. 122, Sons  
 of Union Veterans of the  
 Civil War ..... 245  
 Economic Club ..... 243  
 Farmers' and Mechanics'  
 Club, The ..... 237  
 Holden Civic League ..... 257  
 Holden Club ..... 242  
 Holden Garden Club, The .. 261  
 Holden Girl Scouts ..... 262  
 Holden Grange ..... 240  
 Holden High School Alumni  
 Association ..... 244  
 Holden Junior Woman's Club 262  
 Holden Merchants Athletic  
 Association ..... 263  
 Holden Outdoor Sports Club 258  
 Holden Parent-Teachers As-  
 sociation ..... 260  
 Holden Teachers' Club ..... 257



- |   |     |  |    |
|---|-----|--|----|
| Holden Thief Detecting Society .....                            | 234 | Schools  |    |
| Holden Trowel Club .....  | 256 | Brick City .....                               | 68 |
| Holden Woman's Club ....  | 249 | Butt End .....                                 | 70 |
| Holden World War Memorial .....                                 | 253 | Captain Broads' .....                          | 68 |
| Independent Order of Good Templars, Holden Lodge, No. 148 ..... | 244 | Captain James Davis' ....                      | 70 |
| Jefferson Parent-Teacher Association .....                      | 260 | Captain Manning's .....                        | 71 |
| John E. Harkins Post, No. 42, American Legion .....             | 252 | Captain David Smith's ....                     | 72 |
| Junior Auxiliary, The .....                                     | 255 | Center, The .....                              | 64 |
| Knights Templar .....   | 234 | Chaffins .....                                 | 67 |
| Nondescript Club .....  | 241 | Chaffins, The .....                            | 69 |
| Onowa Council, No. 101, Daughters of Pocohontas .....           | 249 | Chaffinsville .....                            | 67 |
| Sons of the Legion .....  | 255 | Dawson's .....                                 | 69 |
| Temperance Societies .....                                      | 237 | Dr. Chenery's .....                            | 67 |
| Theron E. Hall Post, No. 77 .....                               | 239 | Eagleville .....                               | 68 |
| Village Improvement Society .....                               | 242 | Estabrook's, The .....                         | 67 |
| Wachusett Chapter, No. 131, Order of the Eastern Star .....     | 246 | Flagg's, The .....                             | 68 |
| Women's Christian Temperance Union .....                        | 241 | French Woods .....                             | 71 |
| Woman's Relief Corps .....                                      | 242 | Jefferson .....                                | 68 |
| Public Utilities .....  | 197 | Jonathan Howe's .....                          | 71 |
| Alden Hydraulic Laboratory .....                                | 206 | Lemuel Fiske's .....                           | 70 |
| Farmer's Lines .....  | 203 | Lieut. Samuel W. Hubbard's .....               | 71 |
| Holden Sewer System .....                                       | 212 | Margery A. Rice .....                          | 64 |
| Massachusetts State Police ..                                   | 208 | New State .....                                | 71 |
| New England Telephone and Telegraph Company .....               | 202 | North Woods .....                              | 70 |
| Post Offices .....  | 203 | Number One .....                               | 64 |
| Holden .....  | 204 | Number Two .....                               | 67 |
| Holden, Massachusetts ...                                       | 205 | Number Three .....                             | 67 |
| Jefferson .....   | 204 | Number Four .....                              | 68 |
| Jefferson, Massachusetts ..                                     | 205 | Number Five .....                              | 68 |
| Quinapoxet .....  | 205 | Number Six .....                               | 69 |
| Prescott's Bus Line .....                                       | 201 | Number Seven .....                             | 70 |
| Quabbin Tunnel in Holden ..                                     | 210 | Number Eight .....                             | 70 |
| Railroads .....   | 197 | Number Nine .....                              | 70 |
| Massachusetts Central Railroad .....                            | 198 | Number Ten .....                               | 71 |
| Worcester and Holden Street Railway .....                       | 199 | Number Eleven .....                            | 71 |
| Worcester Street Railway Company .....                          | 201 | Number Twelve .....                            | 71 |
| Walker Bus Line .....   | 201 | Number Thirteen .....                          | 72 |
| Works Progress Administration .....                             | 211 | Number Fourteen .....                          | 72 |
| WTAG .....  | 213 | Quinapoxet .....                               | 71 |
|   |     | Rice, The .....                                | 70 |
|   |     | Ruralville .....                               | 70 |
|   |     | Sodom .....                                    | 67 |
|   |     | South .....                                    | 71 |
|   |     | South Part .....                               | 68 |
|   |     | Springdale .....                               | 71 |
|   |     | Squantum .....                                 | 70 |
|   |     | Tilla Mirick's .....                           | 72 |
|   |     | Unionville .....                               | 67 |
|   |     | Alonzo Knapp Learned ...                       | 72 |
|   |     | A Tribute—The Reverend Thomas Earle Babb ..... | 95 |
|   |     | Damon Memorial and Library .....               | 75 |
|   |     | Library .....                                  | 96 |
|   |     | Margery A. Rice, Miss ....                     | 74 |

Samuel C. Gale, Address ..	94	Holden Water Works .....	216
Samuel Chester Gale and		Jail, The .....	230
Susan Damon Gale .....	93	Municipal Light Department	219
Stephen C. Earle .....	73	Swimming Pool .....	218
Tablets — Damon Memorial	93	Town Forest .....	231
Town Departments and Prop-		Town House .....	229
erty .....	215	Town Pump .....	215
Building and Real Estate ..	231	Town Seal .....	229
Care of the Poor .....	226	Vital Statistics .....	343
Poor Farm Association ..	226	Population of Holden .....	343
Drinking Fountain .....	217	Representatives in the Gen-	
Fire Department .....	221	eral Court .....	347
Glen Spring .....	215	Selectmen .....	349
Highways .....	223	Town Clerks .....	344
The Six-Rod Roads .....	223	Town Treasurers .....	346
The Sixth Massachusetts			
Turnpike .....	225		

















